

SPECTATOR

February 2013

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

FEB 26-MAR 21, 2013	Feb 26,27,28, Mar 4,6,7,12,13,14,19,20,21, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS213 seg 1
MAR 26-APR 18, 2013	Mar 26,27,28, Apr 2,3,4,9,10,11,16,17,18, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS313 seg 1
APR 8-25, 2013	Apr 8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS413 seg 1
MAY 20-JUNE 6, 2013	May 20,21,22,23,28,29,30,31, June 3,4,5,6, 2013 5:30-7:30 pm	GHS513 seg 1

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

FEB 19,20,21, 2013	T, W, Th	5:30-7:30 pm	GHS213 seg 2
MAR 19,20,21, 2013	T, W, TH	5:30-7:30 pm	GHS313 seg 2

These classes will meet at 6785 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, Suite 125

SEGMENT ONE CLASSES

SEGMENT TWO CLASSES

FEB 9-MAR 17, 13	Feb 9,10,16,17,23,24, Mar 2,3,9,10,16,17 11:15 a-1:15 pm	JAN 19,20,26, 2013 11:15a-1:15 pm	Sat, Sun, Sat BFH113 seg 2
FEB 15-26, 2013	Feb 15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26 6:30-8:30 pm	FEB 19,20,21, 2013 9-11 am	T, W, Th BFH213 seg 2
MAR 28-APR 10, 13	Mar 28,29,30, Apr 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10 6:30-8:30 pm	APR 2,3,4, 2013 9-11 am	T, W, Th BFH413 seg 2
APR 13-MAY 19, 13	Apr 13,14,20,21,27,28, May 4,5, May 11,12,18,19, 2013 9-11 am	APR 20,21,27, 2013 11:15 a-1:15 pm	Sat, Sun, Sat BFH413SASU s 2
		June 18,19,20, 2013	T, W, Th

*****2 choices for times: 12-2 pm (BFH613 seg 2) or 4-6 pm(BFH613A seg 2)**

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

JAN 28-FEB 14, 2013	Jan 28,29,30,31, Feb 4,5,6,7,11,12,13,14, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA113A seg 1
MAR 4-21, 2013	Mar 4,6,7,8,11,12,13,14,18,19,20,21, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA313 seg 1
APR 15-MAY 3, 2013	Apr 15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25,29,30, May 1,3, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA413 seg 1
MAY 6-23, 2013	May 6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,20,21,22,23, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA513 seg 1
MAY 28-JUNE 12, 2013	May 28,29,30,31, June 3,4,5,6,7,10,11,12, 2013 5-7 pm	SEA513A seg 1

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

JAN 28,29,30, 2013	M, T, W	7-9 pm	SEA113A seg 2
FEB 11,12,13, 2013	M, T, W	7-9 pm	SEA213 seg 2
FEB 26,27,28, 2013	T, W, Th	7-9 pm	SEA213A seg 2
MAR 11,12,13, 2013	M, T, W	7-9 pm	SEA313 seg 2

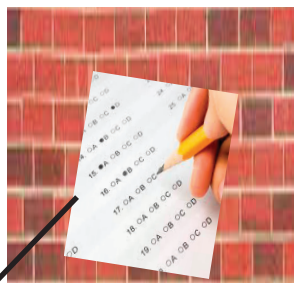
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Note: Class dates and times subject to change

The road to summer

March 5-7:
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March 18:
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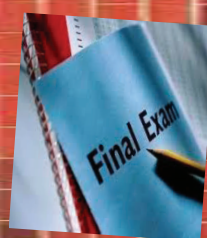
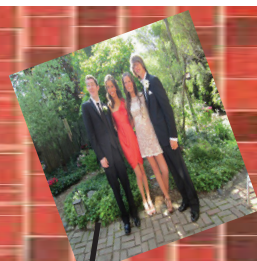
April 19:
Tin Can
Auction

May 10:
Film Fest



April 1-5:
Spring
Break

April 18:
Fashion
Show



May 21-23:
Senior
Final
Exams

May 16:
Prom

May 23:
Seniors
Last day



June 6:
Graduation



June 11-13:
Final Exams



June 13:
Last
day of school



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Orchestra wins in D.C.

Bennett Hart '16, Business/Ad Manager

While also attending the Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 21, the BHS Orchestra won 1st place at the WorldStrides Heritage Music Competition in Washington D.C..

Freshman Isaiah Trial said the trip was immensely rewarding. He said, "I was nervous about the competition, but it was very exciting." Trial said, "We won, and other schools didn't do nearly as well as we did." Trial also added that he felt it allowed the orchestra to maintain their legacy to win the event (BHS orchestra won the competition in 2009), but he didn't know if they would win.

According to the general press release, "[Berkley] was also recognized as the most outstanding orchestra at the competition, and received the "Spirit of Washington DC" award for exemplifying the highest ideals in both character and performance. The Spirit award was also given to BHS for the inclusion of Lance Vardon, a blind and autistic student, who is the piano player for the ensemble.

Later, Orchestra teacher John Robertson summed up the trip and said, "Overall, it was an outstanding weekend, from visiting the Smithsonian to witnessing the inauguration for his second term of America's first black president on Martin Luther King Day. We had a great time and I believe students will remember this trip for the rest of their lives."

The orchestra had a great time in Washington D.C. They won the competition and represented Berkley very well in the nation's capital.

6 THE SPECTATOR

All grown up: Where are they now?

Shelby Silver '14, Opinion Editor

It seems as though it was just yesterday when we were all huddled in front of our TVs waiting for the new episode of *Zoey 101* or *Even Stevens* to come on. Sigh. Even though many of us are maturing and are now watching “grown up” shows like *CSI* or *Law and Order*, others are still sticking to the Nick and Disney- esque shows. The shows that we once knew and loved will always hold a dear place in all of our hearts. We all miss these shows a lot and it seems like all of our old favorite actors have disappeared from the face of the earth. Where are they now? Well, kind sirs, I can tell you exactly where they are and what happened to them. You’re welcome.



Sean Flynn with a mustache. Bam.

Zoey 101(2005-08):

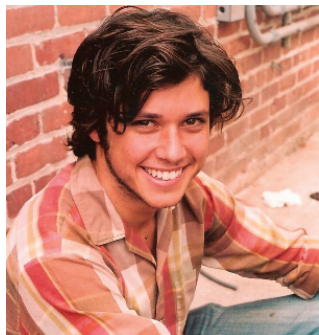
Sean Flynn (Chase Mathews): After *Zoey 101* got cancelled, Flynn decided to follow his dreams and become a singer which did not end well. According to his profile on IMDb.com, Flynn stuck to acting and now at 23, he’s been snagging some small roles in U.S. television movies. You look good with a mustache.

That’s So Raven (2003-07):

Raven Symone (Raven Baxter): Now 27 years old, Symone is on fire with her career so everyone better watch out. After taking a few years off from working in Hollywood, the former Disney star tried to make a comeback on ABC Family’s *State of Georgia* which only ran for one season in 2011. Symone is now back and is about to take over Broadway with her debut role in *The Sister Act* as Delores van Cartier (which is the lead role) according to Broadway.com. I already bought my ticket.

Phil of the Future (2005-06):

Ricky Ullman (Phil Diffy): It seems as though all of these old Disney stars are making their way to Broadway and that’s exactly where Ullman ended up. Now 27, Ullman plays the role of Paul in the off Broadway show *The Bad Guys*. Still interacting with the TV world, fans can see Ullman in some State Farm commercials and as a voice over for extra characters for the hit Disney show *Phineas and Ferb*. Are you really a 22nd century man?



Ricky Ullman looking good as always.

Lizzie McGuire (2001-04):

Adam Lamberg (Gordo): Besides the fact that this 28 year old is a cultural Jew and he has only appeared in two projects since his role as “Gordo”, Lamberg has no known whereabouts. I will find you.



Adam Lamberg still has the flowing locks

Even Stevens (1999-03):

Christy Romano (Ren Stevens): Other than the fact that this old Disney star is also a Broadway star, Romano has written the novel *Grace’s Turn* and her book won the “Teenage book of the Year” award from the New York Public Library back in 2007. Romano has also taken the role as a director for Steph Gold’s (who?) music video “THE SUN,” and today she is now doing nothing but enjoying reruns of her glory days on *Even Stevens*.

Ned’s Declassified School Survival Guide (2004-07):

Daniel Curtis Lee (Cookie): You would think that this 21 year old is on Broadway, but think again BHS. He’s most certainly not. Now that he’s lost his chub, he looks completely different and no one has recognized him...until now. Lee currently has a recurring role on the Disney show *Good Luck Charlie* as Ivy’s boyfriend Raymond “Ray Ray” Blues as well as a role on the hit Fox show *Glee* as Phillip “Phil” Lipoff. Crazy, I know.



Daniel Curtis Lee may have lost weight, but he’s still a clown.

Extreme Fan-itis: Know the symptoms

Madison Huff '15, Bull’s Eye Editor

You know this girl. The girl with posters of her favorite celebrity covering her walls, ceiling to floor. The girl who subscribes to any and every ludicrous teen magazine available. The girl who scrapbooks the events of Miley Cyrus’s life, day to day. The girl who would rather be asleep because her dreams are better than reality. The girl who builds a shrine of Justin Bieber in her school locker. The girl whose main goal in life is to become Drake’s girlfriend. The girl who changes everything about herself, personality and all, just to even slightly resemble Rihanna. The girl, who when she hears Justin Bieber sing, “If I was your boyfriend, never let you go, Keep you on my arm girl, you’d never be alone,” goes borderline insane, and her reply to the Bieb’s lyrics is, “OMG Justin Bieber wrote this song about me! He wants ME and no one else!” The girl who reads in Tiger Beat magazine that Justin Bieber got tattoos and has become a major pot head and her response is so intense and not based in reality but an expression of her disease-like Extreme Fan-itis.

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms you might have Extreme Fan-itis:

Amnesia- This symptom causes those with Fan-itis to forget reality. In other words, they do not remember the fact that they do not know who they are obsessed with on a personal level let alone as an acquaintance. What they think they know is completely false. Like believing that their obsession loves them just as much as they do, wants to be with them, and actually knows who they are. Not likely.

Hallucinations- Another symptom manifests itself in having the fan see his or herself

spend time with whom they are obsessed with even if they are 100 percent alone. These hallucinations can vary from romantic walks on the beach, to a beautiful wedding day, to even kidnapping so as to keep this person all to themselves.

Broken Heart- The side effect of seeing pictures of one’s obsession with someone other than themselves regardless of if it’s a real relationship or not, or then having their heart broken due to said person’s unknown and unimportant feelings for their obsession not being returned.

Shortness of Breath- This symptom causes the wind to literally be knocked out of them when they see who they love with in photos, on television, or if they are so lucky, live.

Insomnia (Trouble Sleeping) - Not being able to sleep due to insane thoughts and unrealistic fantasies about whom they are obsessed with. This includes tossing and turning, lying awake at night with their mind focused on one thing: their favorite celebrity.

Nausea- The need to vomit when seeing negative comments, videos, or statements made about their obsession. This occurs often when their person is in a relationship and is caught in the act of PDA.

Weight Loss/Loss of Appetite- The want to become skinner and eat less in order to catch their obsession’s attention or be up to their supposed standards. This can cause them to also obsess over whoever their obsession is in a relationship with and the need to look exactly like said person.

Contact a medical professional if you are experiencing any of the previously stated symptoms.

HITS AND MISSES OF FEBRUARY

MISS: Award Season

Shelby Silver '14, Opinion Editor

You know award season is here when the snow starts to fall and E! News starts blabbering about the Screen Actors Guild Awards (SAGS), Golden Globes, The Academy Awards, and The Grammys and what the “hottest red carpet trends” are during the heart of winter. It is said that each of these shows are different and each serves a different purpose, but let's be real guys: They're all ridiculously similar and they mean the same thing, like the “Best Supporting Actress” award or the “Best Song in a Movie” award that is given at these shows. With the same actors/actresses in the audience, the mildly funny A-list or B-list hosts, dramatic music, a sprinkling of singing, and poorly scripted lines, the similarities are endless. Each award show is supposed to be dedicated to a specific genre of entertainment, but over the years these shows have meshed their awards together making the events feel really repetitive and boring to viewers.



MISS: YouTube Comments

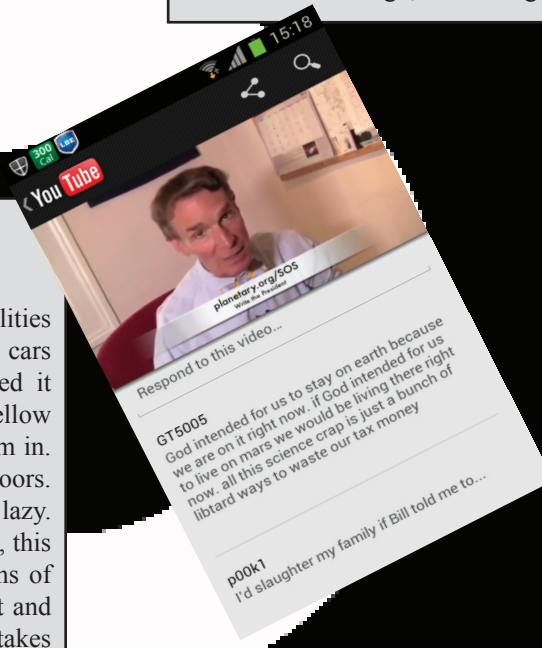
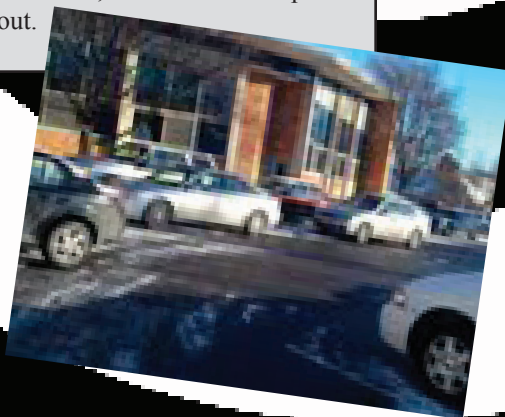
Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

I'm not really one to spend a lot of time on YouTube, but when I do, it's solely to read the ridiculous comments people post. These comments are characterized by posters' uncomfortably strong feelings for a seemingly unimportant video. The feelings range from expressions of rage and hate to those of love and too much sympathy. One of my personal favorite comments has a nice mixture of both. I don't remember where exactly I found it, but it states something along the lines of, “This song reminds me of when someone raped my girlfriend and then I killed him. I'm in jail now, but it was so worth it.” Then people respond back with either “I'm so sorry that happened to you! I'm here if you need me” or “You're a psycho and deserve to die and be raped like your girlfriend.” As far as the primary example goes, I just don't believe you. And for the responses, how do you believe this? Do you think he was allotted some free time in prison and chose to spend it commenting on a YouTube video? Regardless if this particular comment is factual or not, it along with all similar comments are packed way too full of such grotesquely strong emotions, thus causing me (and I'm sure many of you) severe discomfort. At the same time though, we're all guaranteed a good laugh, so carry on.

MISS: Get Out Of The Lot

Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Now that the snow has settled and temperatures have tanked, people and their abilities to park have become lackadaisical. Now usually there are the same three or four cars parked alongside the band room exterior, but lately two other cars have deemed it acceptable to park facing West, parallel to the band doors and in front of those yellow “things,” disregarding the other cars parked alongside the band doors, blocking them in. Also, people have been making their own spots in the front rows nearest the senior doors. It may be snowy and cold, but that is certainly not an excuse to be discourteous and lazy. Obviously this is just a complete “miss” on the bull's eye of life, but aside from that, this unmarked parking that so many are taking part in also says a lot about the humans of today's world. People are becoming inconsiderate when they block others in a spot and just plain sluggish when they make their own spots in the front. In the two minutes it takes to walk from the very back of the parking lot to the senior doors, no one will take part in frostbite or collapse from their full backpacks, so cut it out.



HIT: DJ Von Graff

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

DJ Von Graff, or more commonly known as senior Joshua Graff, has come to the forefront of the BHS music scene as of late. Not only do his stunning good looks and charisma help him steal the hearts of all of the eligible bachelorettes, but they also complement his Disk Jockey performances. I look forward to gatherings when DJ Von Graff is on the ones and twos. Graff put on an outstanding performance at the Snowcoming dance leaving students hungry for more performances in the future. So keep the parties going Graff.

'Wear' have the times gone?

Aaron Cohen '13, Senior Copy Editor

Looking back on my three and a half years of high school, I can safely say I have very few regrets. As I scroll through pictures of freshman year, however, it becomes apparent that I am a very different Aaron Cohen now than I was then. Sifting through my timeline evokes memories of eras that, at the time, I didn't know would be distinct. It is clear now that skinny jeans and flannels were a short phase. So was the black shirt-silver tie look at school dances (possibly the worst of all). What were we thinking? When we flip through the pages of our parents' yearbooks, we are shocked by the ridiculous outfits, crazy hair and fashion trends that, at the time, were completely in style. It is difficult to imagine how we will look back at our "great sense of style" thirty, twenty, and even ten years from now, but one thing is for sure, we will not see ourselves the same way.

I remember shopping for clothes in the days leading up to freshman year. The goal was simple: find flannel shirts to wear with jeans. Flannels, of course, were the new (old) big thing. Then school started, and I was thrust into a world whose inhabitants, both male and female, wore pants that clung to their legs like glue. Thus began the Skinny Jean Phase.

At first it was the skaters, the metal-heads, the scene kids, but soon, football players graced the halls in pants tighter than their girlfriends' leggings. Needless to say, I am glad this stylistic era of my life has come and gone.

Sophomore year was the year of "the bro." While I never climbed onto the bandwagon, it seemed as though overnight, the whole world decided that war, famine and poverty could all be solved using Sperry's. "They're soooooo comfortable," said everyone. But really, you're so comfortable conforming to the same style as your peers.

This look evolved into junior year: the year of flow. The douchebag elements of the bro still remained, as did the amount of time said bro went without a haircut. Cardigans, crew-neck sweatshirts, and argyle socks added a "classy" element to the mix, and snapbacks were a great reason to spend \$50 on your dad's hat that went out of style ten years prior.

And here we are now. I like what I wore today: army green cords, a long-sleeve black shirt, and sneakers. But who knows? Twenty years from now I may question how I even let myself out the door. It seems like this year has been pretty mellow – nothing too crazy in the fashion world. Of course, we can never really understand ourselves without the necessary passing of time. Let's hope the years treat us kindly.

Faces in the crowd

Mikayla Schohl



Maddie Huff '15, Bulls Eye Editor

This sophomore is a brand new student to BHS, but she is not new to the district. Instead of following her friends to BHS freshman year, she decided to go to International Academy (smarty pants). However, she ended up missing all of us so much that she decided to move back. How sweet is she? Regardless of the fact she is the "new kid," she is very outgoing and very approachable. So don't be afraid to chat her up in the halls - she doesn't bite (much). Besides being outgoing and loving engage others in conversation she enjoys dancing and playing soccer in her spare time. She has been involved in both since she was four years old and she participates in these activities outside of school. She also has a real passion for fashion; she dreams of one day being either a famous designer, or a personal stylist. Wearing unique and fun clothes is how she likes to show her personality and stand out. Watch out BHS, we have a loud and proud fashion junkie on the loose.

Claire Schussel



Corey Lipton '16, Assistant Copy Editor

This freshman is new to the Berkley School District. She has long, flowing blonde hair, is on the shorter side, and has deep blue eyes. Her major passion is film. Modestly, she said she "fools around in the movie making business." She aspires to make high budget movies like *Avatar*, *The Avengers*, and *The Hobbit*, but for now, she settles for short films that star her and her closest friends. Schlusel also likes to make her own small commercials, dreaming that one day she can be a part of a Super Bowl ad like the very popular Doritos loving goat. She may not be very well known around the school just yet, but she surrounds herself with a good, tight knit group of friends. She has been welcomed into BHS very nicely, and she has quickly made a lot of friends. The most interesting thing about her though, is that she likes meadow frolicking and long walks on the beach, so find her in the halls if you like movies, frolicking, and long walks on the beach.

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

This BHS junior has a colorful past that many of his fellow classmates are unaware of. Between being a star defenseman on the Bears' hockey team and keeping one of the largest crazy bones collection in the Midwest, he still finds time to feed his ever-growing stamp collection by attending conventions all over the state. One of his proudest moments came when he graduated the First Trax school of Bar Mitzvah dancing in 2009. He is notable in the minds of BHS students and teachers alike for not carrying a single writing utensil in his surprisingly full pencil pouch. A highlight in this junior's life came when he won the highly competitive Huntington Woods Hoops championship. Aside from his wide accomplishments, his single failure includes his placement on the *Spectator's* 2011-2012 dead list, which prohibits any mention of him in the *Spectator*. Additionally, piles and piles of Elmer's glue sticks can be found in his bedroom. He has been quoted saying, "I prefer the stick to the paste because the paste can get kind of messy. I also find the purple color of the stick quite delightful." Lastly, by the end of his time at BHS he hopes to revolutionize the BHS men's tennis team's attire to include Hawaiian button down shirts with lei's and neon short shorts. This man can certainly be considered one of the most colorful characters to ever walk the halls of BHS.

Shane Goldberg



Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

This senior has been a member of the BHS Football team for four years, and quite the star player at that, standing at 6'1 and weighing in at 206 pounds. Those who attended Norup may remember his and his friend Eric Hudson's... 'talent.' During Mr. Florkowski's Journalism class, this boy and Hudson would print (in bulk) sheets of computer paper with the words "Yo locker has been pimped by Eric & Emmanu'el," quite the entrepreneurs. He also claims to posses two more less prominent talents: the power to see into the future and the power to read minds. Ah yes, I was skeptical at first as well, but he assured me that his talents are authentic. To read minds he only must place his palm on his subject's back, from there he gains access to their innermost thoughts and feelings. And as far as his ability to see into the future, well, it seems that he has been taken for granted. He claims to have predicted the weeklong blackout about 10 years ago, but he wasn't taken seriously. So what will be the next tragedy to strike our society? Well, it seems only this senior will know—unless he tells you, because in that case, you'd know too. Maybe he'll even pimp yo locker while he's at it.

Emmanuel Bellamy



The league of extraordinary gentleman

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

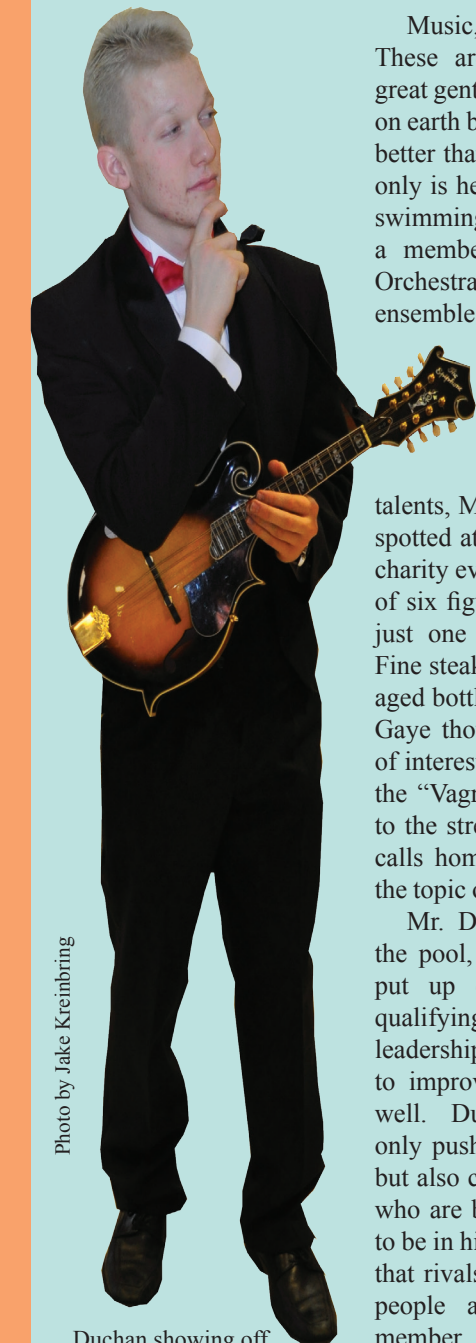


Photo by Jake Kreibring

Duchan showing off his musical talents.

Music, athletics, and academics. These are the cornerstones of any great gentleman's lifestyle. No human on earth balances these three activity's better than senior Noah Duchan. Not only is he in the upper echelon of the swimming community, but he is also a member of the BHS Symphony Orchestra—a world renowned ensemble. But this is not the end; not only does he play the violin, but he also plays the mandolin and dabbles in both guitar and bass.

Aside from his other talents, Mr. Duchan has recently been spotted at many Feed the Polar Bears charity events donating sums upwards of six figures, though polar bears are just one of his numerous passions. Fine steaks, a nice Cuban, and a well-aged bottle of chardonnay (no Marvin Gaye though) add to his lengthy list of interests he indulges in. Known as the "Vagrant of Vernon," a reference to the street in Huntington Woods he calls home, his antics are frequently the topic of many an HDub newsletter.

Mr. Duchan's talents continue in the pool, and not only does Duchan put up extremely fast state meet qualifying times in the pool, but his leadership skills push his colleagues to improve their own best times as well. Duchan's leadership style not only pushes teammates to work hard but also captivates the attention of all who are blessed with the opportunity to be in his presence. With a charisma that rivals the Dos Equis spokesman, people are drawn to our newest member, his (literally) bleach blonde hair drawing many an eye. He has also been known to street perform with his piccolo, raking in over three digits an hour.

Mr. Duchan is now the seventh member of the League of Extraordinary Gentleman. Seven being a sacred number, his induction will be ludicrously extravagant, taking place on Bourbon Street in N'awlins. As we, the founding members approach graduation, the League's secret agenda must be completed with renewed urgency. Stay tuned til' next time folks if you want to find out just what that agenda is.

Photos by Jake Kreibring

10 THE SPECTATOR

Dave Dombrowski: The man who revitalized Detroit

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

In the midst of Detroit's well documented economic adversity, political corruption, and auto industry turmoil, who was the once bustling metropolis to turn to? Who would provide the glimmer of hope that our city so needed in such a depressing time? The answer was not a politician, nor was the answer a celebrity, rather it was a Major League Baseball executive who provided Detroit with the exuberance and vitality necessary to persevere through the challenging times ahead, for the city, and for their baseball team.

People who are not avid Tigers fans may not recognize the team's confident General Manager, President, and CEO, Dave Dombrowski, if they saw him in the street. But nevertheless, his profound impact on Detroit and its people came at just the time when the city needed him most.

It was November 2001, and the Tigers had just limped to a 66-96 record completing their eighth straight losing season. The time had come for a change in the front office, someone with fortitude and dedication, someone who could endure a rebuilding process with the Tigers, and that man was Dave Dombrowski.

In his last job with the Florida Marlins, he built the expansion team from scratch, and in five years' time, into World Series Champions. He came into Detroit knowing he was facing down a similarly daunting task of someday building a struggling ball club into a dominant baseball team. Yet now he was in Detroit, a city with a celebrated baseball tradition, where winning was expected. Dombrowski knew about the passion Tigers' fans had for their old baseball team, and he knew that the pressure would be on him to not only produce a winning ball club, but to do so quickly. As long as the resources were present, Dombrowski believed he could turn the abysmal team into one of great success. An overhaul of the baseball team was forthcoming, Dombrowski had anticipated it, and with some patience from the fans, he hoped the team would once again return to glory.

Dombrowski's most profound impact on the team, the city, and their fans has been through earth shattering transactions that have sent the city into a baseball frenzy. The first major moves he made came as early as six games into his first year as Tigers' President and CEO in 2002. At that time, he fired the teams failing manager Phil Garner and replaced him with former Tigers' great Alan Trammell. He then made a move at the General Manager's position replacing former GM Randy Smith with himself. In the years following, the Tigers' General Manager, President, and CEO made changes that not only launched the team into their winning ways, but also took a city plagued with negativities, and put them into a state of harmonious bliss with their baseball team.

After the Tigers had fallen to the lowest of the low in 2003, losing an American league record 119 games, Dombrowski knew transforming the baseball team had to begin right then and there. He believed the tipping point for the team began once they signed star catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez. The lowly 2003 year reflected itself through Detroiters' absence at Tigers' home games. But once Pudge signed with Dombrowski and Detroit, everything seemed to shift. Dombrowski said that baseball has always been an escape for fans from the everyday life, but once exciting players like Pudge signed, it sent a ripple effect through multiple areas of Detroit. Not only did attendance increase by about 600,000 fans in 2004, but the team also improved their record by nearly 30 wins. Dombrowski's self-proclaimed ripple effect had set in, and he believed that bold signing of Pudge eventually led other big name free agents to sign with the improving ball club as well. Dombrowski observed that fans saw this move in an encouraging light. He said fans began to see the front office trying to swing things in the positive direction, which then motivated them to come down to the ballpark and watch the excitement unfold right in front of them.

Dombrowski then proceeded to sign superstar free agent outfielder Magglio Ordonez and pitcher Troy Percival during the 2005 offseason. 2006 featured the signings of Kenny Rogers, Placido Polanco and manager Jim Leyland. The list goes on and on from Gary

Sheffield in 2007 all the way to Victor Martinez, Prince Fielder, and finally Torii Hunter in 2012. Dombrowski believes all these exciting signings in turn improved the morale of Detroiters through very rough times.

The Kwame Kilpatrick scandal, auto industry bailout, and economic recession all hit their hardest in the year of 2008. The Tigers, as Dombrowski stated, provided the positive distraction that the city needed. The teams fans exemplified this by setting the Tigers highest all-time attendance record in 2008 at over 3.2 million total fans. The most prominent aspect of Detroit that Dombrowski noticed throughout the challenging years for the city was how families could come out to the ballpark and spend their entire day there for a reasonable price. The Tigers' President, GM, and CEO noted how a diverse range of fans could come and enjoy a great afternoon at the ballpark. He said the affordable prices at Tigers games along with the multitude of other attractions and promotions at the ballpark really helped contribute to the great number of fans that continued to show up amidst these distractions to the city.

Dombrowski also believed exciting events such as the 2005 All-Star Game, along with all the heart-racing playoff runs throughout his tenure helped to distract fans from the growing problems within the city. He concurs that sports, even if only momentarily, tend to take fans' focus away from pressing external issues. Further, Dombrowski thought that when these energizing occasions came to Detroit, they not only gave the team and the city positive national attention for a change, but they also caused Tigers fans to once again become passionate towards a team that had earlier been struggling. This is obviously important because as a result of the increased fan fare in depleting downtown Detroit, local businesses began to regain their footing in the rough Michigan economy.



Dave Dombrowski improves the city of Detroit and the morale of Detroiters one phone call at a time.

Photo by Jake Rothman

The economy and auto industry were not the only aspects of Detroit that were struggling throughout Dombrowski's tenure. Other professional sports teams in the area were either locked out, decreasing their level of play, or just flat out losing. While these teams provide inconsistencies in the Detroit sports world, the Tigers were the team the city could hang their hat on. Credit for this is largely due to Dave Dombrowski. He believes that when the team started winning, they became the central focus of the cities sports fans. Dombrowski also supposes that because the Tigers play in spring, their season had the recurrent feeling of rebirth, not only for the team and their fans, but the for city as well. He tributes a lot of this emotional pattern to the Tigers' owner Mike Ilitch, who he said was, and still is, completely committed to winning.

Dombrowski witnessed the destruction of the city first hand every time he came into the ballpark. However, he said, seeing the family atmosphere surrounding every Tigers' game really excited him about he future of the franchise and its fans. Dombrowski believes the team is doing a great job of including Tigers' fans from all over the state. The team's winter caravan, Dombrowski thinks, shows how the Tigers organization is reaching out to people from Detroit up to Traverse City. He was motivated to see fans all over the state representing the team proudly with their Tigers' apparel. He considers seeing these fans in their gear as an indicator of growing hope for the team and Detroit.

Dave Dombrowski changed the attitude of an entire city by first changing the losing ways of its beloved baseball team. As their team got significantly better, Tigers' fans once again began to flock down to Comerica Park, instilling a sense of renewed hope in the team and the struggling environment around them. Through a recession, a bailout, a corrupt mayor, and much more, Dave Dombrowski continued to excel at his job. This perseverance is exactly what the Tigers, their fans, and the city of Detroit needed in their darkest days.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK: TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES ON WEIRD STUFF

Josh Radom '16, Assistant Opinion Editor

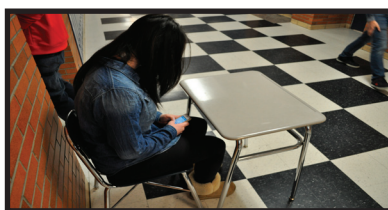
Let me be the first person to say that there are some "interesting" people who do "interesting" things during classes at BHS. The perspective that students have contrasts that of our teachers who see everything their students do at least five times a week.

PDA:
We all pass them in the hallways. There is kissing, hugging, and holding hands from couples displaying their affection for each other publicly. "It's gross and I try to embarrass them in the hallways when I see it," principal Randall Gawel said about the ovebirds' actions at school. Duffy said, "It's disgusting— I definitely don't say anything and I definitely divert my eyes. Let's move on. I don't think I have anything else to say about that." You are only in school for eight hours. PDA can wait.

Texting in class:
The classic side turn, the leg cross, or the under-the-desk-without-looking move that usually prevents students from being caught texting are frequently used in the classroom. Yet, with all these at their disposal it seems as if people are becoming more and more obvious with their texting, "When we are watching a movie in class and a students face lights up and they are looking downward its pretty obvious," English teacher Mrs. Stacy Walters said. "It's mostly the freshmen that I catch, probably because the upperclassmen are better at hiding it." Obviously, as students get older they become more, shall we say, skilled at using their phones. Not only are upperclassmen better at hiding their texting, but it also seems that teachers of upperclassman do not care as much compared to underclassman teachers. Next time you bow your head to respond to a text, remember teachers are watching you. They *will* take your phone.

Picking noses:
We have all experienced the dreadful scene of someone digging for gold right out in the open. "I see it all the time; it's as if they think no one can see them," said English teacher Mr. John Duffy. He normally does not say anything to the student who is trying to keep their nose clean, but Duffy has seen their snack turn into a meal. So for the kids out there picking, we can all see you. We know who you are.

Teachers see it all. Nose pickers, lovebirds, and texters are just a few of the things that teachers experience every day at BHS. Just remember, next time you go to dig, lean in for that five second kiss or unlock your phone in a dark room, you are being watched.



A BHS student utilizes her advanced texting techniques.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

YELLOW BRICK ROAD IS NOT THE ONLY ROAD: COLLEGE IS NOT NECESSARILY THE MAGICAL WIZARD OF OZ

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Sports Editor

Everybody puts a huge emphasis on universities. It is a common belief that without a degree a person would work for minimum wage, own many cats, and die alone. Yet, with the college tuition rising and more unemployed college graduates each year, people are starting to challenge the traditional college path. Instead of blindly assuming college is a must, some may choose to consider other possibilities.

1. Community college

Community college is, in many ways, a great alternative to traditional universities. There, students can get an associate degree in the field of their choice or take individual classes if they wish to. Some larger universities accept credits earned in community college, too. It is beneficial for students who decide to pursue a Bachelor's degree after getting their Associates. Perhaps the most attractive

feature of community colleges is its financial feasibility. They are inexpensive, allowing students to complete their education without extensive loans and debts. Usually, the tuition costs one-tenth of private university's tuition. However, community colleges lack the resources and teaching quality that is offered in major universities. They do not have up-to-date science labs, large libraries, or a famous academic faculty. They also do not have the perks of dorm life, study abroad programs, athletic centers or professional teams, but, the low tuition makes up for it.

2. Military

Military service is a challenging yet rewarding alternative. Those who join the army, navy, air force, or marines are awarded bonuses after their service. Some of these benefits include monetary compensations, education support,

insurance, retirement benefits, and paid vacations. Not only can people go back to college with tuition paid, they, unlike college students, have a certainty of employment by U.S. military in the future. The real drawback of military service is the high possibility of deployment in hot spots due to America's ongoing involvement in foreign affairs. There will always be a possibility of injury or death in these spots, something a college student does not have to deal with.

3. Self-directed education

With a college degree losing its value, a new trend of self-directed education emerged recently. The people who practice it are still active learners, but not in a formal college setting. The key of self-directed education is utilizing the available resources. From taking free college lectures online to attending various conventions and conferences,

they grab every opportunity they are presented with. The most important perk of such practice is getting real world working experience early on. There are no restrictions to self-directed education so anyone can have their own unique path to success, whether it is starting a business or working for non-profit organization. However, there's always a risk of failing which discourages many to choose this path and pursue a college degree instead.

Many of the students know for sure they will go to college and these alternatives may seem rather pointless. But there is always that small percentage of the student body who might feel undecided or who may not have the appropriate resources for attending post-secondary institutions. Keep an open mind about the future of education and examine every possibility to make an intelligent decision.

New additions to BHS families

Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

Often, the high school environment creates the idea that teachers have no other purpose but to come to school and teach students or that they have no real lives outside of school. As a reminder that they are people too, a few of our fearless leaders, administrator included, have just experienced a momentous occasion that has nothing to do with the four walls of our school. As some of you may know, a few staff members have a recent addition to their families and this has changed their home lives immensely. It's not just about us kids here anymore.

Mr. Scott Doty: Science teacher and father of Megan: 1 month old

One thing that was made very clear about the addition of Megan to the Doty clan was the lack of sleep that Doty has to endure. At home he said he is "busier and tired" because of all the things that go into taking care of a baby. As Megan is the fourth child in the Doty family, they have been through this "routine" before. The teaching habits and home life of Mr. Doty is nothing that he hasn't experienced before, besides the fact that he may have forgotten what it is like to be this tired.

Mrs. Jessica Sandtveit: Math teacher and mother of Gus: 10 months old

This is Mrs. Jessica Sandtveit's first child for her family, so the changes that she had to make were pretty severe. In her home life she has had to give up most of her own time and she has "a lot of sleepless nights." The baby is now the number one priority. She said, "the biggest change is probably not having as much time to yourself to do things." The baby hasn't made too many changes to the way she teaches besides the days she has to take off to take care of Gus. The lack of sleep is of course making it a little bit more difficult to have patience with her students.

Mr. Andy Meloche: Math teacher and father of Oliver: 4 months old

As the first child of Mr. Andy Meloche, there have been quite a few adjustments he has had to make. Just like Doty and Sandtveit, the new baby has resulted in a drastic lack of sleep. The changes at home because of Oliver have included not going out as much and a lot of late nights, but "everything is better" with the cute addition.

Mr. Michael Ross: Assistant Principal and father of Cameron: 2 ½ weeks old

Mr. Ross welcomed Cameron, his new baby boy, into his life less than three weeks ago. As with any new child, the amount of time that a person has to themselves decreases and the time spent with the baby increases. Of course, the amount of sleep is lowered as well. Mr. Ross said, "Having a baby takes more of your time." He added, "You can't just come home and do the things that you want, you have to tend to a newborn. It changes your schedule." The changes Cameron has created are familiar to the situations in many families with newborns.



Above Left: Meloche holds son Oliver

Above Right: Cameron Ross

Below: Doty's children hold new sister Megan



Photos courtesy of teachers featured

Snowcoming: Snow much fun

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

THE BEST

- Collaborative Center-** The smaller, less open space, makes for a more intimate dancing experience
- Snow Puns-** I snow you all loved them
- Drumline-** The creativity of the Drumline lead by Senior Zack Lask was unmatched by any other performance during the assembly
- Rally Towels-** Because the marching band is the best at clicking the refresh button on their internet browsers, they were awarded best marching band in Metro Detroit by My TV 20. They were awarded 1500 rally towels which were a great addition to the pep assembly.
- Selling Tickets At The Door-** Selling tickets at the door just seems logical for teenagers who can't even remember what they had for breakfast in the morning, let alone buying a ticket for something in advance.



BHS students express themselves on the dance floor.



THE WORST

- Balloons-** They got everywhere once immediately popped and served no purpose (still better than last year's fake snow)
- Coat Check Unorganized-** Though this was a clever idea, if you wore a Berkley Varsity jacket or any coat that was blue or black good luck finding it on the bottoms of the dirty lunch room chairs.
- Spirit Days-** Even though the snow day messed up the week, people didn't participate in the disappointingly themed days
- Tug Of War-** Everyone cheats, and if you ask Mr. Steve Weingarden it should be done away with completely. Seniors, we're talking to you.
- Winter Sports Procession-** Basketball is not a marquee sport anymore. Let the team with the most impressive record end the procession.
- Skipping-** Show some spirit, on any normal day of school you wouldn't just walk out and skip a half hour of class so why is the pep assembly day any different?
- Snowcoming Court Voting Process-** Unfortunately, very few classes were informed about the text to vote protocol making it less of the student's choice and more of a student leadership popularity contest. Also, members of student leadership should not be able to participate, just as we are not technically allowed to be featured in the newspaper.

Photos by Veronica Marchese

IMPACT OF AN E: WHAT'S THE CONSEQUENCE?

Josh Radom '16, Assistant Opinion Editor

Failure can affect the decisions made and the effort students put forth towards school. When the teacher is walking around the room with assessments that have letter grades written at the top, determining whether or not they're going to pass, can make said student anxious. As your graded essay lands on your desk, it is the moment of truth. You may come realize all of your hard work was for nothing. As you look at your grade as well as the grade of the person sitting next to you who put half the time you put into yours, your stomach sinks and you question why you even took the assessment at all.

This feeling of failure can propel certain students to want to succeed on assignments in the future. Since the feeling of failure is not one that many enjoy, some students do everything in their power to make sure they never feel that again. These are the students who strive to succeed, who are not "okay" with barely passing. The students with this work ethic are always trying to improve in what ever is necessary for them to succeed and complete their goal. "It's really amazing that some of these students haven't given up yet; their persistency impresses me,"

U.S. history teacher Mrs. Angie Church said. Even though these students may not be getting a grade that reflects the amount of effort they are putting in, they still keep pushing through. They understand that if you do fail one class it is not the end of the world, and if they are putting in their best effort then they are satisfied.

For others, failure takes over. They may start to doubt their ability to do well in any subject and subsequently stop putting in effort at all. Church said, "If students continue to fail but continue to put in the effort to study and do their work than they tend to stop trying because they don't get the results they are looking for." These students have a different outlook on the grading systems and grades because of the ones they have gotten in the past. They think that grades are not the only thing that matters and if it is going to be more frustrating as the years go on, what is the point?

Some students who have stopped trying most likely were once persistent in their schoolwork and school might have even been easy to at one point. "The students that school work comes more easily [for] tend to check out

more in class and not pay as much attention as they should be, making it hard to differentiate the skills that they already know compared to skills they need to be listening to find out how to do," Church said. When students think that the information being taught is more of a review and is repetitive for them, why would they pay attention? As this habit of not paying attention becomes more routine, they can begin to retain less of the information needed to pass an exam or learn the necessary material needed to pass the class. They are then in the same situation as the kids who are not getting the grades they want.

Something to remember is that everyone has a different perspective on the grading scale. For some students, doing your very best and still not getting an A or B is okay with them because they know they did the best they could. For others, the only reasonable passing grade is an A. Teachers use the grading scale as their base for deciding what is passing or failing. That perception is what impacts students to make both positive and negative decisions from then on that could possibly affect their futures.

EASY A

Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor

BHS offers a variety of classes from those that challenge us, to those that challenge our urge to skip class. These are otherwise known as "blow off" classes. During senior year especially, most people jam pack their schedule with these useless electives, hoping for an easy year before the coming struggles of college. But as my counselor recently told me, that is seemingly "illogical." If it is illogical, then why offer these classes at BHS? For those of us who would like to try to enjoy our last year at this school, these classes provide a perfect opportunity to lighten our work load and heighten our fun.

For 61 minutes the possibilities to choose warrior pose one, two, and three or create a ceramic masterpiece surround us, yet will these prepare us for the coming years? Let's face it, probably not. Unless, of course, you're one in a million hoping to be a successful artist or athlete. If so, I applaud you for taking appropriate classes that prepare you. For the rest of us, these classes serve as a sanction from hurting hands courtesy of long note taking and an achy back from a heavy backpack with loads of books and homework. Maybe it is illogical to take these "meaningless classes," but sometimes people need a break. These classes give us a place to slack, without our grades following suit.

These types of classes are not limited to ones that look easy on paper; there are many AP classes that also rarely receive work at all and differ from the required curriculum. Those few are easier than most classes and graded on a five point scale. Trust me: it would be more impressive to fail than to pass. These classes look notable on a transcript yet require under par effort.

For most, I see these classes as a rite of passage. If you are one who has never attended one of these in your high school career, I admire your integrity. Yet, you may be missing out. These classes provide a place for students to bond over atypical activities. You don't have to rack your brain for answers, struggle with worksheets, or fend for an A-. These classes are fairly easy and most importantly, enjoyable.

WHEN ALL FAITH IS LOST

Corey Lipton '16, Assistant Copy Editor

Over the past few weeks, Giovanni Plowman has become a very popular name among the younger generations of social networkers. If you haven't heard yet, I will not be giving a description, due to the level of obscenity of her claim to fame. If you know what she did, just think about it for a second, and really let it sink in. This is the kind of thing that is brought up when playing hypothetical games like 'truth or dare', 'would you rather', and 'how much money would it take for you to do "x," yet the answer is always "no" considering nobody in their right mind would ever really do any of these things. Plowman claims that she did what she did to become famous, which, because of the nature of humans and the media, she now, in a way, is.

The media advertisers and social networkers of America put her name everywhere, giving her unsubstantiated "fame." This event is uncannily similar to what happened with Kim Kardashian, a bit more disgusting, but similar. Kim became famous for a video as well, and is now beyond a household name. I just hope Plowman goes away and doesn't have a similar ascent to fame as Ms. Kardashian. People see Plowman's actions being labeled "disgusting" as they have been and think, "Hey, I can do something even grosser," and they do. Now instead of one Plowman, we have five others like her all fighting for attention by saying that what they did was even more disgusting than what she did. With so many "Plowmans", one of them is bound to become famous, as Kim did, and America will just fall in love with a new, idiotic, celebrity who by no means deserves to be famous for having done nothing of real merit.

Plowman isn't the reason that America is on a downhill slide as a nation, the media's publicity of the situation and people trying to out-do her is what will drag us all into the underworld for good. In order to fix the problem, we must simply ignore these attention seekers and they will eventually stop trying to get attention and go back to their miserable lives.



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THE THIRD INSTALLMENT
OF WBC TOURNAMENT

Bennett Hart '16, Business Manager

This year's World Baseball Classic tournament will begin March 2, but before it can start, the qualifiers had to occur. Spain, Brazil, Chinese Taipei and Canada won their groups to clinch a spot in the World Baseball Classic completing the list of 16 countries competing in the tournament.

Instead of doing one large bracket there are four groups that consist of four teams. In each group all teams play each other over a weekend in one city. Once all games are played in each individual group the top two teams in the standings (of each group) move on to a single elimination bracket. The United States, Japan, the Dominican Republic, and the Netherlands headline their respective groups.

Although the clear front runners are agreed upon by most baseball fans, there certainly is no clear winner to this year's WBC. In fact, all three MLB network anchors picked different teams. Bill Ripken picked the US, while Dan Plesac picked The Dominican Republic, and Greg Amsinger picked Japan.

In the two previous World Baseball Classic competitions, one country has dominated: Japan. Surprisingly, the assumed winner, the United States, has never won. In fact, their best finish has been fourth. One reason for this is because in the 2006 World Baseball Classic George Steinbrenner, owner of the Yankees, did not allow his players to compete in the tournament. In 2009, the US team finished fourth, due to injuries of key players Dustin Pedroia and future hall of famer Chipper Jones.

This year's World Baseball Classic promises to be very exciting. It will be fun to see Japanese superstars match up against major leaguers, and future MLB stars (minor leaguers) in an attempt to make an impact for their respective countries. The WBC should be very entertaining and interesting to watch.



Team Japan celebrates their victory over South Korea in 2009.

Photo courtesy of Rich Pilling



The WBC championship trophy.

Photo courtesy of Encyclopaedia Britannica



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2850 W. 11 Mile, Berkley

Contact Darlene: Darlene@yadezra.org, or call 248-548-3663

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SWIM TEAM PREPARES FOR THE VICTORY LAP

Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

On Feb. 20, the BHS boys swim team will participate in the OAA league swim meet. After completing all of the regular 'dual meets' (swim meets between only two schools), the team is undefeated with the exception of a loss to Troy on Feb. 5, who luckily isn't a part of the league because they crushed the boys team in their meet. Following these results, the chances of a first place finish are very likely for these swim team members.

Although the victory may seem easy to pull off, there has been a lot of hard work put in by the team in order to prepare for this meet. "Hell week" (a week dreaded by all BHS swimmers), is the two weeks leading up to leagues, where the intensity of training reaches its highest point and is conducted solely for the purpose of getting ready for leagues. After finishing the second week

of grueling practices, the team tapers down or lowers the intensity and yardage for the two weeks prior to leagues so that their muscles are ready for the meet.

The entire season has been in preparation for this final meet. Senior and captain Christian Dolnicek said, "There have definitely been some ups and downs, but we've all had a good season." He added, "After 'hell week', the pinnacle of the season, everything that we do from now [on] is what we have been working hard for." Team members are hopeful that their hard work and dedication this season will pay off.



Noah Duchan shows the victory pose.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

After crushing Royal Oak in a dual meet at the beginning of the month with a final score of 128-53, there is a huge chance of success in this upcoming meet. At this point, anything below a first place finish would be unacceptable for BHS boys swim and dive.

Moving on

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

On a recent trip that I took to the University of Michigan to hang out with my brother and some of his friends I realized how old they seemed. All of them had real jobs, most of them salaried, instead of the typical minimum wage grind, and they all seemed to be solidly on their feet in a time that is usually filled with poor decisions and confusion.

The point I'm getting at here is that however awesome and mature my fellow classmates and I feel as second semester seniors (which *is* as great as everyone tells you), we are still very young and inexperienced for the most part on many things outside of Berkley High School. With as astoundingly excited I am to graduate and finally walk out of BHS for the last time, I am slightly trepidatious to be on my own and leaving all the comforts of home like my own bed, homemade cooking, and clean laundry that I don't have to fold. I guess things like that are the price of independence, which I am happy to pay, but I think for all these years of high school most of my peers and I have been glorifying college as this utopic type of promised land. While it might be, I think there are some harsh realities all of us going away to school are going to have to come to grips with.

It is a slightly scary and exhilarating feeling that the decisions we make now and the ones we will make over the course of the next few years will have a huge effect on the way we live the rest of our lives. This is the case for the first time in our lives. High school is all about reaching certain goals—most importantly, graduation and getting into a school good enough for your own expectations. But if you mess up in high school (like a certain friend of mine) you get another chance at a secondary school to still get some form of a high school diploma. If you get arrested it is more than likely you will be tried as a minor rather than an adult. Basically, high school is a test course with quite the safety net, and I don't know what you all think, but for me, I feel like leaving for college is like going up on the high rope without a safety net for the first time, and it is time to sink or swim.

I can't speak for the rest of my class but I have a sneaking suspicion that I am not the only who one is sick of being treated like a child in school, and that's one thing I will definitely not miss about high school. Now I can't complain too much, because for the most part the teachers at BHS do an admirable job (we're ranked by *Newsweek*) but even as seniors, many of whom are legally adults, we are still treated as if we know nothing, and we need to be disciplined for the slightest infraction. College will provide a respite from this injustice, I won't be asked for a hall pass anymore (Rick, I've been here four years—get off my back), and if I decide that I don't want to go to class I won't receive a call home every time that I exercise my freedom of choice. If BHS really wants to complete their objective of preparing us for college, they would stop coddling their students right up until we walk across that stage.

Whether high school was a good four years or not for you, the experiences and mistakes we made (and hopefully learned from) helped definitively shape us into the person we are today, and leaving for college is just one more step in the ladder of finding out who and what we want to be. My brother is one of the people who moved on from high school and came out smelling like roses. I hope to do the same.

@BHSCcompliments, I think you're pretty

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

When @BHSCcompliments introduced itself onto the Twitter scene, it stated its main focus as “simply to put smiles on the faces of BHS Students.” However, as time has gone on, the account's tweets have become mostly split between generic compliments and self-indulgent tweets i.e. people are mean to me and society sucks or hey people guess who I am!!! While it seems @BHSCcompliments set out to do something nice and selfless, its actions seem to have progressed in quite an opposing direction.

The large number of students at BHS, and one persons ability (or rather, lack there of) to help all those students is the leading cause of @BHSCcompliments' generic tweets. In other words, @BHSCcompliments is one person and BHS is home to many, so to assume that one person on one account (@BHSCcompliments) would have the ability to give genuine compliments to all of the students seems unreasonable. The unattainability of genuine compliments is exemplified through the tweets. For example: “@IzzyWroblewski is just ridiculously attractive,” “@NAT_NAT9 is incredibly attractive,” “@MadelynOliver is just super attractive all the time.” These generic tweets could be applied to anyone at any time, and they are indeed. In turn, the generic compliments lose any sense of value, which seems exactly the opposite of what @BHSCcompliments originally set out to do. So why compliment people at all?

Aside from calling every girl pretty or other various synonyms for pretty, @BHSCcompliments loves to tell people that although @BHSCcompliments does not know who you are, you seem nice. Telling someone they “seem nice,” holds no value. @BHSCcompliments, seeming is not being. While it seems that @BHSCcompliments' purpose was to provide the students of BHS with some uplifting comments to preserve their fragile egos, it has actually done quite the same as it would've done not existing. It has erased the sentiment that comes with a compliment. It has only provided students with generic compliments and thus disingenuous words which could easily be given to any other person. And since these comments are no longer compliments, they become so fluid that it seems to be the same as not giving a compliment at all.

At one point, Compliments claimed it was going to reveal itself, and then it didn't. That created quite an annoyance among followers, but people were still just so desperate to know who's behind the account that they allowed themselves to be strung along further by @BHSCcompliments. Following that form of playing ‘hard to get,’ Compliments has since invited its followers to guess whom the super interesting person is behind the account. But again, all that happens is flirting and a refusal to reveal itself. Here, @BHSCcompliments holds its secrets over its followers heads: “@BGoobbles I'm actually so outside of all of you that you have no idea who I am,” and “Oh btw a couple more people figured me out the other day ;)”

@BHSCcompliments, nobody likes a tease. Instead of focusing its energy towards seeking out people and their own idiosyncrasies in order to give them a real compliment, this cycle of cutesy teasing perpetuates. @BHSCcompliments accomplishes no sort of happy improvement for the lives of students, but rather focuses its effort towards propelling itself upwards on the social ladder. Further, it asserts itself over us by claiming that we need someone to give us compliments, and that @BHSCcompliments is the right person for the job. It appears as a self-centered and pretentious action to take upon oneself as it claims itself to be holier than those it controls.

Continuing on that, @BHSCcompliments then mirrors the selfish acts of every other individual on twitter (and all other social media sites). By its original anonymity and plan to only use the account to give compliments, @BHSCcompliments presented itself as a different type of self- one that would only use its power of publishing for other's sake, not its own. But through its generic tweets, it truly is not benefiting anyone but itself. Itself because by giving compliments to others, people assume that it is ‘nice.’ But again, no one else is benefited because by giving everyone the same compliment, it becomes no different than not giving a compliment at all. Then, by @BHSCcompliments self-indulgent tweets (guess who I am -> you never will -> I have power over you) it becomes clear that this is no longer a selfless act, but instead a selfish one to give the account holder a personal sense of popularity and power.

@BHSCcompliments presented itself in a time of need. A fellow student had just died of preventable causes, so @BHSCcompliments recognized our vulnerability as it swooped in and became the hero. It was here to show us that life wasn't, and isn't, ‘that bad,’ and that someone's day can be made better by something small. However, it seems to have done something significantly less useful. Its repetitiveness and commonplace of compliments have caused the words to become devalued. But because of its hero status, people still take its word as the word, which is why no one is turned off by its pretentious word choice as it asserts itself over the students, ie; ‘you'll never guess who I am.’ Sure, compliments are nice. But the accomplishments of @BHSCcompliments are ultimately not so nice, and actually potentially harmful. If someone (@BHSCcompliments) claims his/herself as the giver of compliments, and everyone just take their word for it, then the student body is truly done no favors. @BHSCcompliments is promoting us to blindly follow the leader, ultimately causing us to be naïve and codependent. We all have the ability to give compliments or not, and we don't need a twitter personality to tell us how and when.

Also, this all just seems so fake. Does anyone else feel that way? It feels as if we're in this little world where BHS is a fictional high school in a fictional suburb in a fictional movie with a fictional do-gooder who decided to make a Twitter account and become the savior of the town. The tweets all feel so scripted, forced, and just again so phony. Honestly, @BHSCcompliments I have a question for you (well maybe a few): Why be anonymous? Do you really just want to put smiles on people's faces? You truly have no other agenda? You know, like to further your own popularity? To appear as the savior of our town? Or, maybe you're really from diversity council and this is all a ploy? Seriously, why not just compliment people, in person, to their face? I say just go up to someone (yes, in person, I know it's scary!!) and give them a real compliment, because this all seems artificially constructed and I (and many others) just aren't buying it anymore.

The 140-character dilemma

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Issac Newton's Third Law states that every action brings about an equal and opposite reaction. The third law of Twitter, coincidentally, states that every action brings about a completely opposite and totally disproportionate reaction. Flashback to the night of Jan. 30 when we, as a collective student body, took the five minute trip over to John Lindell Ice Arena for yet another heated Berkley-Royal Oak sporting event. What we all thought would be an easy win over a school that we had beat just weeks prior, turned out to be a bigger feat than we bargained for. As we are all well aware, Royal Oak took the win from our varsity hockey team on that fateful Wednesday night, but the real story here is the fight that took place directly following the game.

Maybe, before I get into that night, I should shed some light on the ongoing, once completely harmless, rivalry between the two schools. Though I do not know when this rivalry got its start, I do know coming to BHS as a freshman, it was expected that you remain true to your school and try to cut ties with all things ROHS. Multiple spats have gone on between the two schools over the years, but that's expected with a high school rivalry.

One night prior to the game, a boy from ROHS over Twitter made a remark about the whole BHS student body being of Jewish decent. Though no one really took a particular offense to the statement, it still resonated with us students. So, when it came time for the long-awaited hockey game at the Lindell Ice Arena, we took advantage of the opportunity given to us. We showed up with Ziploc baggies filled with any type of change we could find in our cup holders, and paid our five dollars in various loose change. If someone who knows little to nothing about the demographic of our school wants to make a comment about who we are as a student body, we were willing to fight back. When the game ended, and the scoreboard read 3-1 in Royal Oak's favor, we were ushered out the back doors of the arena to try and guarantee no fights would break out. Unfortunately, the arena only has one parking lot, ensuring that every person there has to cross paths at least one more time.

Though I was not in the presence of the said fight that broke out directly following the game, I was a witness to the multiple police cars with their red and blue flashing lights on the grass of the Lindell Ice Arena. Walking into school the next day, multiple renditions of the previous night's tussle were lurking in every hall of BHS. Gossip about a boy from BHS hitting a girl from ROHS made the rumor mill churn that much faster for days to follow. From what I heard and the bits that I did see, the BHS boy pushed this girl, but over the course of 12 hours, it turned from seemingly harmful push to a more violent punch. Now I'm not saying that what this boy did was in any means okay, but through outlets like Twitter, the truth of what actually happened is blown so far out of proportion. Not only were mouths moving quickly from the night's events, but so were pointed fingers of students in attendance.

The malice grew from students each day from both sides of Woodward. Each school starting to attack the morals, reputations and statuses of their archrivals. It seemed as though the game turned into less of a sporting event and more about preserving a bitter rivalry between two schools that only springs up a handful of times each school year.

If I'm being honest, I did, much to my later dismay, join the "I hate Royal Oak" bandwagon on that night by sending out an intentionally harmless tweet regarding the ethics of ROHS students which caused me to become subject to exactly what I am trying to negate. Though I deleted my tweet a mere ten minutes after sending it, the fact of the matter is that I sent it. Something that may have seemed so satisfying to me in the heat of the moment I now see as totally stupid. We all know that taking part in such a huge rivalry between two seemingly similar schools may be hard, but that doesn't give us any right to fabricate any of the events that happened that Wednesday night. The ROHS boy who tweeted the Jewish remark is just a teenager who didn't think before he typed, something we all fall victim to.

Sometimes, we say or do things without thinking; we make thoughtless decisions when sending out tweets and have proven over and over again that a 140 character tweet is more than enough to show the nastiest side of a decent person. In a perfect world, we would remember and use the Golden Rule even on social network. Tweet to others as you would want to be tweeted. We cannot let ourselves become so engulfed in online drama that we forget the uses of it in the first place.

Don't be afraid to get hit by the semi

Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Many of us chose a senior quote for the yearbook that "meant something" to us, but then there are some of us who even though we thought our quote at the time of selection was insightful and was meaningful in some way, no longer remember what we chose as our important, life describing (or at least high school experience describing) quotes, two short months ago when the tiny slips of paper were due in the big green box in the yearbook room. I am, regrettably, the latter of those two. I sat and tried to remember what I had chosen, and thought - it must not have been that important or that significant of a quote, even if, at the time, I thought it was fitting enough to describe myself and my feelings for people to look back on when they flip through the endless pictures of faces they do not remember.

We either chose quotes that described our lives as highschoolers (in a measly 20 or less words), were funny, showed our interests, or were left blank, considering some may not have found writing a sentence to be that necessary. Maybe our quotes were from a famous athlete, a favorite television show, a well-known author, or even an unknown source. So we spend a lot of time reading what these other people say, and for myself at least, I feel as though I quote other people, "re-pin" quotes onto my Pinterest, scroll through millions of the cliché pictures with sunsets and a cheesy quote, and in the end feel a little more insightful, and why? Is it because I think I really understand what the author or speaker is trying to say, or because I think someone else out there thinks the same way I do? These moments of understanding when you sit and think "oh yea, I totally get it," are similar to the times in our English classes when we analyze novels and poetry. Things can be interpreted in infinitely many ways, and by an infinite amount of people, no one, not even a famous athlete or author can tell you how to feel or think, even if he or she is incredibly intelligent.

As I sat Sunday night thinking about what I was going to rant about this issue and got to thinking about how I couldn't remember the quote I had chosen, I found myself thinking about a different quote by an author whose books I used to read way back when: Ellen Hopkins. In one of her books she says "Sometimes you're traveling a highway, the only road you've ever known and wham! A semi comes from nowhere and rolls right over you. Sometimes you don't wake up. But if you happen to, you know things will never be the same. Sometimes that's not so bad. Sometimes lives intersect, no rhyme, no reason, except, perhaps, for a passing semi."

Back in middle school when I was interested in Hopkin's edgy novels I read this and thought "a [freaking] semi? What is she talking about? Of course things would be different if you're hit by a semi," and now, as I read it, as a debatably "mature" and more wise senior in high school, I think: She's completely right, and I finally know why.

Sometimes we're traveling a highway - going through life, the only life we've ever known — and a semi rolls over us, and our lives change. Life is all about change — if it weren't, think about how static it would be. We can let that "semi" keep us down, or we can accept that things won't be the same. We cannot be afraid of that semi, or worry about how different our lives will be, or that we'll mess up, because if we do, another semi could come rolling in. And that's what life is about, no, not getting hit by a literal semi, but accepting that things change. We graduate high school, leave people behind, find new people, and figure ourselves out.

Some days we may think we are losing our minds, because what seems clear to us usually becomes a giant question mark. We wait for answers when we should be out looking for them. We are naïve students waiting for things to be handed to us, like a blank sheet of paper that says "needs to be school appropriate and no more than 20 words." And then we go to our smartphones and scroll endlessly looking for the "perfect" quotes and say, hey, that's how I feel — when in reality, no one can tell you how you feel because this isn't poetry, there is no analyzing to life. Sometimes a semi hits you, and you can't analyze that. The only thing that can be explained is that sh*t happens.