

# SPECTATOR

October 2012



Volume LXV, Issue I Berkley High School

What do colleges really care about?  
Find out on pg.11

Homecoming  
pg.12-13

Varsity Soccer  
pg.21

Tigers rally into  
postseason pg.22



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## A Tribute to Ms. Price

Aaron Cohen '13, Senior Copy Editor & Managing Editor

*"We cannot know for certain how long we have here. We cannot foresee the trials or misfortunes that will test us along the way. We cannot know God's plan for us. What we can do is to live out our lives as best we can with purpose, and love, and joy. We can use each day to show those who are closest to us how much we care about them, and treat others with the kindness and respect that we wish for ourselves. We can learn from our mistakes and grow from our failures. And we can strive at all costs to make a better world, so that someday, if we are blessed with the chance to look back on our time here, we can know that we spent it well; that we made a difference; that our fleeting presence had a lasting impact on the lives of other human beings."*

-Barack Obama

She was the best teacher I ever had. But she was so much more than that. She was a light, an inspirational force who changed the lives of literally hundreds of students. She was my mentor. She was my friend.

Ms. Price was one of a kind. She taught the real US history. She didn't strictly use the textbook, because she knew better. Ms. Price understood the history of our country as a constant struggle between the forces of injustice and enlightenment. Majorities and minorities. And she wanted us to know the truth.

Ms. Price was well aware of these struggles; she had experienced them first hand. Openly gay, her first few years at Berkley were filled with attacks from homophobic students and parents to remove her from the school.

She never gave up.

Several years later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she underwent chemotherapy. But she continued to teach, taking her school photo with a bandanna to cover her hairless head.

Yet, she never gave up.

My freshman year, she left the school year prematurely and spent weeks in the hospital and at home with a severe case of pneumonia. Almost everyone thought she'd retire at that point. But that wasn't Ms. Price. On the first day of sophomore year, she stood proud as ever at the entrance of room 121.

Still, she never gave up.

And then it happened. Sophomore year was coming to an end, and during my daily commute from second hour choir to third hour chemistry, I noticed a substitute teacher in Ms. Price's room. She would never teach again.

Ms. Price was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer, and this time the odds were not in her favor. She passed away Aug. 19, 2012. She was 57 years old.

In this day and age, 57 is simply too young to go. But as I left her funeral, lost in thought, I couldn't help but think, she did more good in her lifetime than most could hope to achieve in several. Margine Price lived her life with passion and a never-ending drive to make the world a better place. She changed my life, and she changed Berkley High School.

## PATRONS

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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 Alex Prappas hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Alex 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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## Take Part in the BHS Monthly Food Drive

**Novembers item is Canned Vegetables**



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**The next item will begin November 26**



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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

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## Jumping on the band wagon

Music classes travel to learn, perform

Bennett Hart '16, Business Manager

The Berkley band and orchestra classes are going on trips this school year to the U.S.'s most prominent cities.

The orchestras are going to the presidential inauguration in January, where they are performing at the inaugural ball. All students in the classes will have the opportunity to go on the trip. The bands will be headed to New York City in March, and once there they will work with a professional musician and perform at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum.

First, the bands will work with a professional musician and then will see the New York Philharmonic. Although, they will be there to perform and improve, they will also be able to enjoy the city of lights viewing Ellis Island, the 9/11 memorial, Central Park, and a Broadway show. They will even get to be part of the Today Show audience at Rockefeller Plaza. Berkley band director Mr. Alan Posner said he is looking forward to performing to the USS Intrepid and seeing violinist Joshua Bell at the New York Philharmonic.

The Berkley orchestras are very excited to go to the presidential inauguration. Orchestra teacher Mr. John Robertson said, "I think being in Washington on the inaugural weekend and seeing the president take office is a very moving experience. Students get to see first-hand how America has enjoyed a peaceful transition of power for over 200 years now." He also said, "I'm looking forward to participating in the upcoming national competition in Virginia. We played at this competition four years ago when attending Obama's inauguration and won first place and an award for being the most outstanding ensemble at the event." The orchestras will also go to many museums in D.C like the International Spy and the Air and Space Museums.

The Berkley bands and orchestras have been given very unique opportunities. All students in the group will be able to go on the trip for a low price. The trips are a great reward for the hard work that the students put in inside and outside the classroom everyday.



Photo by Mitchell Hart

Lady Liberty is excited in anticipation for the band's trip to New York.

## Online college resources grant new, untapped opportunities

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Sports Editor

High school students, especially seniors, stress out about college constantly. There are standardized tests to take, grades to maintain, scholarships to find, and essays to write. The whole college application process is rather complex, time consuming, and stressful. But students often do not know what we are so eagerly applying to. What are college lectures like? How does college differ from high school? What homework will we get?

Stanford University professors, Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, launched a pioneering educational website, *Coursera*, which hosts hundreds of courses from more than thirty universities for free. Its revolutionary approach to online education gives students from around the world the ability to take courses from the world-class universities such as Stanford and Princeton. The website launched in April and it is rapidly expanding, adding new courses each month. *Coursera* offers a very diverse choice of classes, enabling students to take courses in 18 different categories. Each course's intensity is based on the specific subject and one's prior knowledge, but all of them tend to challenge the students.

Each class has tens of thousands of students and the *Coursera* community is nearing the two million user mark. One of these online learners is junior James Meyers, who started using Coursera just two months ago, and is now enrolled in two courses. His favorite aspect of the site is taking courses he likes with no repercussions. "Don't be afraid to start a bunch of classes, that you may just end up dropping, it's the only way to see what you'll enjoy," Myers said, for anyone who is on the fence about joining Coursera. Since the classes are free, participants can take and drop as many classes as

they wish. The site is helpful for anyone who wants to get a feel for college style lectures, learn new things, find their passion, or enhance their college app and job resumes.

Many other institutions took a similar approach to online education. Stanford professor, Sebastian Thrun, founded his own free online university, Udacity. Udacity allows students to take 13 different courses, mostly in computer science. The courses are rigorous and require hard work and dedication, but the benefits are enormous. On top of acquiring the knowledge of programming, students are able to receive a certificate of completion and Udacity sends students' resumes to the potential employers that the site partnered up with. Udacity is a great start for students with a passion for computer industry.

Instead of joining forces with Coursera, Harvard and MIT collaborated on their own free online learning platform, edX. The colleges invested \$60 million in the project, so they could offer an Ivy League learning experience to everybody for free. Over the summer, University of California Berkeley joined edX, offering two courses. edX is set up similarly to Coursera but only offers seven courses so far. The site launched this fall and already thousands of students are enrolled in various courses. According to the site's FAQ page, "EdX will actively

explore the addition of other institutions from around the world to the edX platform, and we look forward to adding more 'X Universities' as capacity increases." edX is on a search for more university partners and as the site grows, more partnerships will be established.

With these resources, students can get an accurate understanding of what the college classroom experience is like, as well as learn new things in virtually any field of interest virtually.



## 8 THE SPECTATOR

## The truth about scholarships: Students just need to know where to look

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

Everyone knows college is expensive and student loan debt has surpassed the national credit card debt. Finding a way to pay for college without loans can be extremely helpful and economically sound. Even though it is unlikely students will win a "full ride," students who earn any scholarship money are more likely to graduate from college.

There are thousands of scholarships available, but often students expect for the scholarships to come to them, rather than making an effort to seek them out. The problem with having so many scholarships is that there are many students competing for them, and it is hard to find the right scholarship for the right student. For example, counselors do not always know each student's family history, health history, family's health history, activity history, future ambitions, etc. Finding the right scholarship takes an in depth knowledge of the person looking for the scholarship, and that is why the student must be the one looking for it.

One should never pay for a scholarship. There are scams out there that students must be aware of. Never pay money to get money. Scholarships or programs that guarantee winnings are most likely a scam. Never provide credit card or bank account information.

So where can one find these elusive, mythical scholarships? Scan the interwebs, or check the nifty Counselors' Corner each month. Utilize the fact that one is involved in different clubs, religious groups, or participates in different sports to one's advantage. Finding scholarships takes hard work and some commitment, but the pay off is more than worth the effort.

### What's True and What's False?

**Myth:** Only students who are excellent students can win scholarships.

**Fact:** Less than 10 percent of scholarships ask about a student's GPA (findaid.com rep). High achieving students are more likely to win scholarships, but that could be due to the fact that higher achieving students are more likely to apply. Last year there was a scholarship offered exclusively to Berkley and Royal Oak High School students. A Berkley student with a 2.7 GPA won because she was the **ONLY ONE WHO APPLIED**.

**Myth:** Scholarship applications are difficult to fill out and require essays.

**Fact:** Scholarship applications usually require simple personal information. It's true that some do require essays but guess what? If you're going to college you'd better get used to writing essays. You can recycle essays, so one essay can be used for several similar scholarships. If it's a scholarship worth \$500 and it takes you one hour to write the essay, you potentially just earned \$500 for an hour. You're not going to find a part time job that pays so well!

**Myth:** Scholarships are only available for graduating seniors.

**Fact:** Scholarships are NOT only available for graduating seniors. Many are for seniors, it is true, but plenty of scholarships are available for students of any age. Plus, winning scholarships in 9th-11th grade provides material for the "Honors and Awards" section on college applications. Senior year is very busy and students may struggle to find time in their senior year to manage school, college applications AND scholarship applications. Save yourself some sanity and start searching now!

**Myth:** I won't win, so why apply?

**Fact:** If you don't apply you are guaranteed not to win! If you apply for scholarships, you can bet that you will not win them all. Derrius Quarles has been called the "Million Dollar Scholar" because he accumulated over a million dollars in scholarship money. He has said that in all the scholarships that he applied for, he did NOT win the majority. The ones he did win added up to a lot.

*-From the desk of Mrs. Natalie Perkins*

## Teaching our future one step at a time

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

Students must learn from the educators of today, since they are potentially the educators of tomorrow. Health teacher Mrs. Kathleen Hearne, brought that idea to her students by managing one of the many clubs offered here at Berkley High, The Future Educators Association, otherwise known as FEA. The purpose of FEA is for aspiring students to learn teaching skills, support good well-rounded education, and tutor those in the surrounding Berkley community.

The philosophy that FEA was built upon originated in 1930s. As Hearne put it, the purpose of FEA is "[To give] the students insight as to what actually happens in the educational system." Over time the first organization that was made regarding future educators was modernized into the FEA that it is today.

This organization has become well known throughout the country and since the beginning of 2012 it has over 11,000 members in 36 different states. FEA, however, is unknown to students and staff members alike. By advertising in the "T" and having the club mentioned on the video announcements, Hearne hopes to gain support and also some potential club members. For those who would like to learn more, club meetings are held every other Wednesday during lunch in room 123.

FEA plans to fundraise in order to support events, trips, and surprises planned for the students this year. The club will have monthly bake sales in the SCAC and will sell red ribbons supporting teacher appreciation. The club will also sell shirts supporting education in the SCAC for Berkley staff members.

"I like that we have volunteer opportunities and work as a team to get stuff done," senior Andrea Kumm said. FEA is a chance to discover a side of the educational world most students never knew. This is a chance to discover one's interests and what other paths may lay ahead.



### 2012-2013 BHS PTSA Meeting Dates

November 20, 2012

December 18, 2012

January 22, 2013

March 19, 2013

April 16, 2013

May 21, 2013



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



# Foreign exchange at its best

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

Imagine waking up in a different country. Instead of sipping smoothies poolside, you are thrown into a Michigan winter, where your day starts promptly at 7:40 a.m. In addition to doing well in one's classes while also attempting to navigate the social scene, he or she is also learning the ins and outs of American culture. This is the life of a foreign exchange student (FES).

Similar to previous years, BHS is hosting foreign exchange students from across the globe, all of whom enrich the school's culture and diversity. This year, BHS has brought in five foreign exchange students from Germany, Italy, and Spain. Being a foreign exchange student offers an unparalleled experience that is sure to influence both one's daily life and their outlook on the world. Hailing from Italy, senior Enrico Cofler says that adjusting to the fast-paced, task-oriented American lifestyle was one of the most difficult parts of acclimating to life in the US. Although he is facing a much different environment than he is used to, Cofler enjoys living in a "melting pot society."

One of the German exchange students, Christian Ulmer, believes life in America to be substantially different from life in Germany. Besides the difference in drinking age (16 in Germany), Ulmer says that he enjoys the diverse opportunities that living in America offers. Ulmer, who is being hosted by the Duchan family, says that he is glad that he was placed with two "brothers" he can easily relate to.

While the exchange students are here to glean as much information as possible from the classes that they are enrolled in, one cannot discount the impact that the social aspect of high school has on shaping their American experiences. Junior Even So, from Germany, has attended all of the home football games this year with the many friends she has already made. According to So, "Football games are not like this in Germany. Everyone here has so much school spirit; I love it!"

So is not the only one to enjoy the games, though. Ulmer, who is a member of the marching band, has the incomparable experience of playing a part in the game during halftime. Ulmer says that being a part of marching band has provided him with the opportunity to become friends with people that he would not have ordinarily met. Ulmer is not the only one who has had no trouble making friends, though. Other students, who

were not placed in homes with kids their age, have gotten to know many of their peers and have developed lasting friendships in a short period of time.

Although a small population of students from BHS has travelled abroad during high school, it is an increasing trend. Junior Kate Patronik is a perfect example of this. While Patronik is not travelling to a foreign country, she is spending a semester studying at the Conserve School in Wisconsin where she will be inspired to promote environmental stewardship through academics and engagement with the forests, lakes, and wildlife. Patronik, who is most excited for the opportunity to direct her studies towards her future career path, says that although it is a great opportunity, if she had to travel abroad where a different language was spoken, she would be much more apprehensive and wary about leaving home.

Senior Gilad Granot has a different take on travelling abroad. Last year, Granot spent four months studying in a small, Communistic community called a Kibbutz, outside of Jerusalem, surrounded by Jewish students from all across America. Because he lived in an "American bubble" with other students, he was able to experience Israeli culture firsthand while also having some of the comforts of home, including ample opportunity to keep in touch via Facebook. Taking into the account the seven hour time difference, communication was a hassle and Granot preferred to spend his time playing soccer with the local community and eating Shawarmas on trips into town. Although Granot

was with other students during his time in Israel, this did not impede on his ability to get in touch with his roots and learn more about not only

his heritage, but himself as well. Granot advises that all students seek out an opportunity to travel abroad because of the countless benefits it offers, especially in regards to personal development and maturity.

Traveling abroad and hosting foreign exchange students offers magnificent opportunities that enrich one's view on the world outside of home and the many different peoples and cultures while also helping to shape a student's outlook on life.

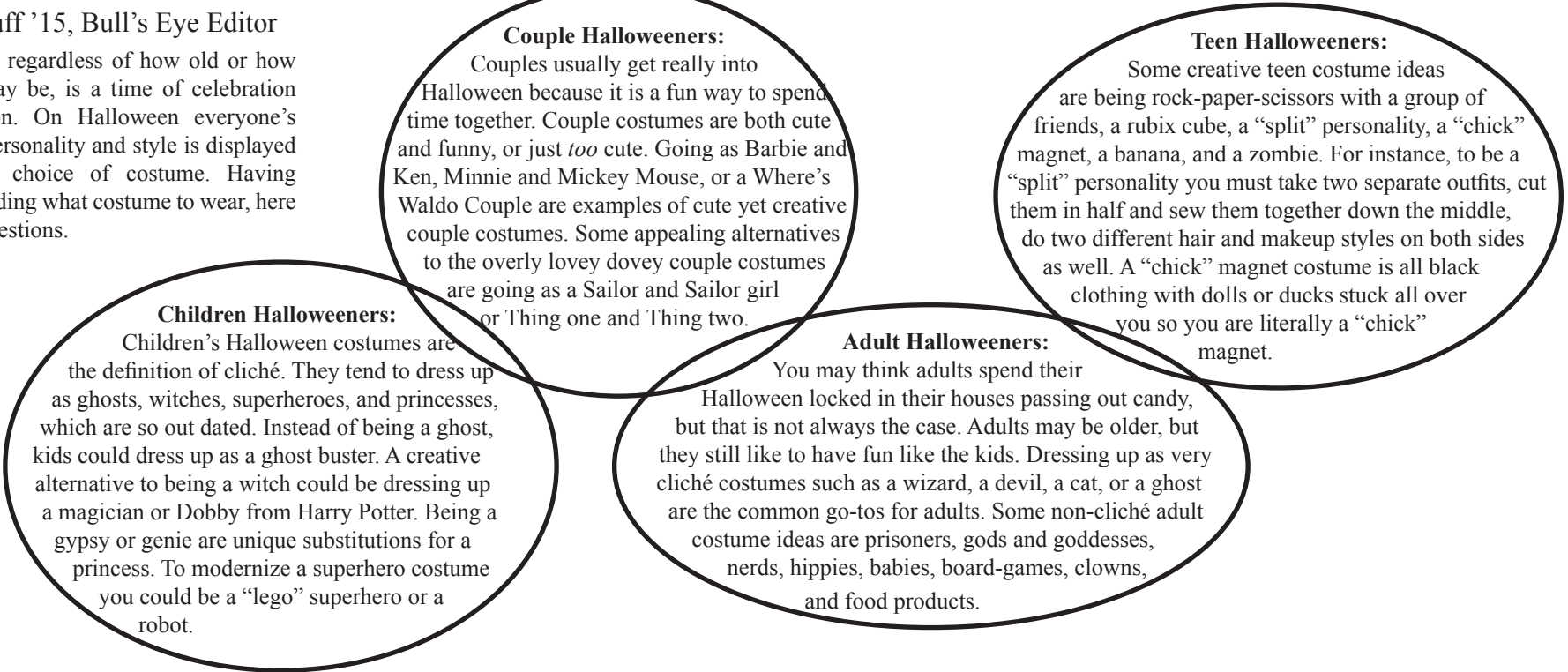


Foreign exchange students: Senior Christian Ulmer from Germany; senior Sara Eissler from Germany; junior Rocio Jimenez from Spain; and junior Even So from Germany come to BHS in search of new culture and experiences.

# Clothes make a statement, costumes tell a story

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

Halloween, regardless of how old or how young you may be, is a time of celebration and expression. On Halloween everyone's own unique personality and style is displayed through their choice of costume. Having problems deciding what costume to wear, here are some suggestions.





## 10 THE SPECTATOR

*A night in the life of Zacharias Samuelson Flask*

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

For the second installation of the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen we searched for a renaissance man and philanthropist. Without much deliberation we feel that Zacharias Samuelson Flask, or more commonly referred to as Zack Lask, embodied all of the qualities necessary to be enshrined into the league. Without further ado we give you a night in the life of Zacharias.

Friday:

**3:10 pm-** the school bell rings as Zachariah so graciously holds the door for every lady that exits the Center for the Advanced Studies and the Arts

**3:15 pm-** Zachariah proceeds to walk to his automobile

**3:30 pm-** Zachariah returns to his estate in order to mentally and physically organize for the weekends excursions

**6:00 pm-** Zachariah and Drumline members congregate in the parking lot to warm up and pre game for the weekly football game

**6:30 pm-** Zachariah and other members get in to the weekly chauffeurs coach, and they all proceed to the football pitch listening to the sweet sounds of Ben Folds

**7:00 pm-** As the game commences, Drumline led by two member of the League lead the assembled student body into what can only be described as a celebratory frenzy

**7:54 pm-** The other school's Marching band assembles in front of the bleachers in preparation for halftime festivities, Zachariah proceeds to propose a challenge to the leader of their Drumline

**8:02 pm-** The other school's Drumline members walk away in near tears due to the beatdown they faced at the hands of the BHS Drumline lead by Zacharias

**9:42 pm-** The game ends and the real festivities of the evening begin

**9:50 pm-** Zachariah is followed by a flock of women to the passenger car in which he arrived

**10:00 pm-** Zachariah chos his favorites of the suitors to join him for the remainder of the evening

**10:15pm-** Zachariah and his harem proceed to Downtown Detroit to go to the city institution of Lafayette Coney Island to partake in a plethora of the most delicious chili covered frankfurters

**11:23 pm-** Zachariah breaks into an impromptu drum solo on the streets of Detroit earning well over seven figures from passersbys which he anonymously donates in entirety to a foundation which benefits at-risk inner city youth

**12:55 am-** Zachariah performs a citizen's arrest on a pair of car jackers attempting to steal a car

**1:30 am-** After safely returning the majority of his suitors, the most interesting man at Berkley takes the remaining females out to attend a high stakes game of craps where he earns millions when on the dice

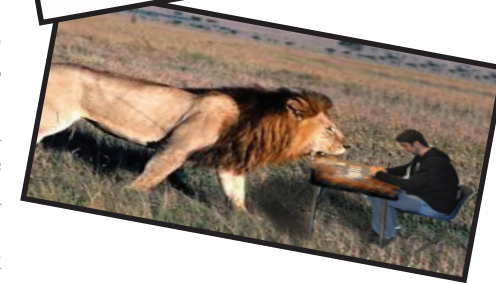
**2:30 am-** Zachariah takes his earnings to his accountant who transfers the small fortune to his off shore account in the Cayman Islands

**3:30 am-** Zachariah attends a late night black tie event at The Detroit Yacht Club where he partakes in the most elegant of cuisine and fine dining

**6:30 am-** Zachariah finds himself in the middle of an underground Russian Roulette competition

**7:00 am-** Once crowned champion, he takes his earnings to Becky's Nip and Tuck in order to refuel for the next day's festivities

So there you have it--a night in the life of Zacharias Samuelson Flask, an elder statesmen and the epitome of a gentlemen. The events described in the above passage are entirely factual, and it was transcribed with the express written consent of Mr. Flask. This is the last year for us, the founders of the league, and Flask is just the beginning. We will, with the class of a Hamptons Bed and Breakfast, take over the student body. Till next time faithful readers, good night and good luck.



Senior Zack Lask partakes in some of his usual gentelmanly activities.

All photos by Jake Kreinbring, photos courtesy of Google images

*A stepping Stone to better athletics*

Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

She was a physical education teacher here two years ago. For six years she held that position and was called back, after being pink slipped in 2011, this year Ms. Lori Stone became the new Athletic Director (AD).

So where was she last year? Stone joked that she was "sitting on the couch [watching] soap operas and [eating] bon bons."

Stone actually did the opposite of sit around, she was "babysitting, traveling, and working out," and to top it off, worked for a Children's hospital "helping kids with brain injuries, which were caused by car accidents." It looks as though Stone kept very busy doing what she loves – helping children with their overall well-being, which is one of the reasons Stone was so excited to return to BHS.

Stone has a large fan base of students from her previous years at BHS who are excited about her return, yet there are some students who are skeptical about how having a female AD will change things in terms of BHS athletics. One said irked student assumed that Stone's female gender will cause her to favor female sports. This anonymous male student said, "This sucks; she's probably going

to favor girls' sports now." As in previous years female students have never had a problem with the male ADs, so to this comment Stone ensures the student body that she treats all "student athletes equally, and gender does not matter," as all ADs have done in the past. Her job as AD is to "make sure student athletes are treated fairly and to support them so they can be the best they can be." The "student athletes" Stone mentions encompass all genders, and Stone's job is to make things fair for all of them, and of course to help in whatever way she can. She'll also give some diversity to an otherwise male dominated administration.

Stone plans to improve the athletics department by "talking to coaches, parents, students, and other athletic directors to see how [she] can improve the program." She went on to say that she "also plans on being at as many events as [she] can, to not only support student athletes and the crew that is working, but to also make sure everything is going smoothly." She does not plan to implement any changes in the department just yet, but will once she "gets her feet wet in athletics and can learn to navigate through



Photo by Jake Kreinbring

everything."

As the third AD in three consecutive years, Stone has a lot of pressure on her shoulders to be the one that lasts; she just wants to keep the "high level of expectations" alive, the expectations that Mr. Yowchang implemented over the years he was here while she was a gym teacher.

Ms. Stone looks forward to the potential challenges that may arise during her time as athletic director.





## Instagram TAKEOVER

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-In-Chief

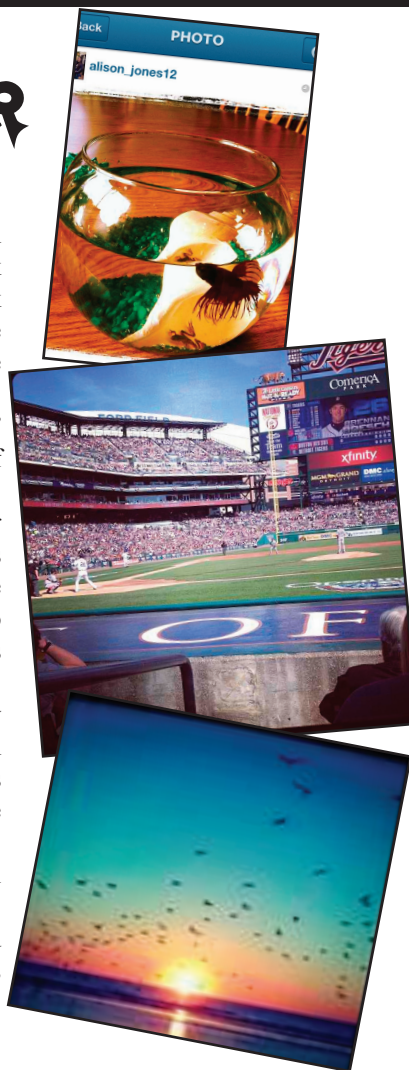
When Facebook first came out in February 2004, it had 500 million users. However, with the introduction of Instagram, people now have new ways to keep in touch with friends, peers and the rest of the social networking world. While some say that Facebook will always be the best form of social networking, some now only use the site to “Facebook stalk” friends. Another popular form of social networking, Twitter, allows people to share every aspect of their day with their “followers.” New methods of social networking have taken over the lives of teens and adults alike, and more specifically the smart phone app, Instagram. Instagram is for people who really do not need to know what their “followers” are doing at every second in their lives. It is a less intrusive way to see into the lives of friends and peers.

Instagram is an easy and appealing way to share and edit one’s photos. Since October 2010, the free photo-sharing app has been crazily successful, reaching one million users by December 2010 and 150 million by August 2011. Instagram allows users to become a full-fledged artist. Instead of just publishing or printing one’s photos with little to no finesse, Instagram lets users change the filter on his or her photos to make them look as professional and glamorous as possible.

Besides captions that are optional to post with the pictures, Instagram takes away the writing aspect of other social networks (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) and instead adds in sharing with strictly pictures. Instagram does though have some of the same capabilities of Facebook and other previous social networks, allowing users to comment and also like posted photos.

With the fast pace world of technology, smart phones also help to enhance these social network sites. With mobile apps, using networks like Instagram is easier than ever.

With the ever changing world of social networking, Instagram may be overshadowed months from now by some new way to keep in contact. But for now, the 150 million users will enjoy sharing their pictures with their friends, followers, and the rest of the world.



Photos by Alison Jones



## College Confidential: WILL GOING BY THE FACEBOOK NAME 'CLARCLAR DONDON' ACTUALLY MAKE OR BREAK A COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION?

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

As so many of us seniors continue to find ourselves logged into the common application website “till the break of dawn,” and skip football games to write college essays, the inevitable question arises: does any of this really matter?

The world is supposed to end in a few months anyways, so what’s the point? Maybe we should all just wait until doomsday, Dec. 21, and then apply regular decision if the Mayans were wrong. Then again, those of us applying for early action seem hesitant in leaving our futures in the hands of a culture that cut out the beating hearts of their war prisoners. We could just abandon our lives, become the next Christopher McCandless, aka Alexander Supertramps, and embark on our own journeys to Alaska. But because none of us have gained enough intellect to successfully do so, we should probably commit our next four years to the rigor of university life. So instead of contemplating our purpose in life and the purpose of higher education in our life, which I could ramble on about for weeks, it can be narrowed to contemplating which parts of this actually matter and which parts we can take in with a deep yoga inhale, and then let go.

We have all racked our brains since the common app and other college applications were released to think of something unique about ourselves that will make the university want us. We have also, depending on the college, tried to discover something unique about that college which makes us want it- even though every college we’ve looked

at thus far has marketed itself as a world class university with top notch professors. And even though it might triple our hometown in size, there are still thousands of ways for students to get involved and make it small- per say, squirrel watching club, or the preparation group for the Zombie apocalypse. So we scour the websites in an effort to make our essays less cliché and our attributes stand out. Through a little research, an essay about why a college suits you the best can easily go over 250-500 words. In our minds we think, what’s an extra 50 words? However, when admissions counselors are reading thousands of applications a day and they all have just a *few* extra words, the numbers add up. Immense work is put by students into all of these essays, and although the word count may limit what one believes s/he can do with the essay, the word counts are there for a reason and it is not impressive but rather frowned upon to go over that maximum for many colleges. So instead of trying to cram all of the valuable life lessons we’ve learned over our 17/18 years here into one 250 word essay, learn to do more with less. It will make a more concise and memorable essay.

A concern many students also have is about the immense Facebook posts, tweets, and Instagramed pictures that are readily accessible if his or her name is googled. Many fear this could be the one bad mark to ruin any chance they have of getting into their dream school. But guess what? It’s really not a big deal. When I chatted with an admissions

representative from the University of Michigan, she assured me that googling 40,000 students is not something they have time for, and thus not a part of an otherwise “holistic approach.” So those who have altered your identities to things such as: Emrly A Volcojno and Ronnie Arono, you may revert back to your original names. Don’t fret, colleges won’t spend time looking through 2,227 tagged pictures to find one with a red solo cup.

Hopefully though, there really is only ONE red solo cup. Colleges do realize that high school students are not perfect and make mistakes, but regardless, all suspensions are required to be reported. The severity of the issue often determines the overall effect it has on a student, similar to any other demerit on an application. But as long as it is not a repeating occurrence, and the student does actually disclose the information, it does not deem an application as an automatic rejection.

So sleep well tonight my fellow seniors. Applying to college is stressful, but we’ve already completed the most toilsome portion of the task. Putting pen to application and to essay are just the finishing touches, and it’ll all be over soon. The *Spectator* staff believes in all of you, so don’t fret over PA papers and anatomy lab practicals. Just hold out until February and it will all pay off.





# SENIORS SCORE DURING SPIRIT WEEK

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

The excitement of spirit week was highlighted with two of the most anticipated sporting events of the entire school year. The powderpuff and homecoming games both featured an enthusiastic crowd and incredible athletic accomplishments.

The Hurley Field crowd witnessed two spectacular performances from senior athletes at each of the exhilarating games. A sentimental attitude inspired the senior football players, while the senior powderpuff athletes were motivated by the continuous trash talk from the juniors, and the fact they would never get to play again.

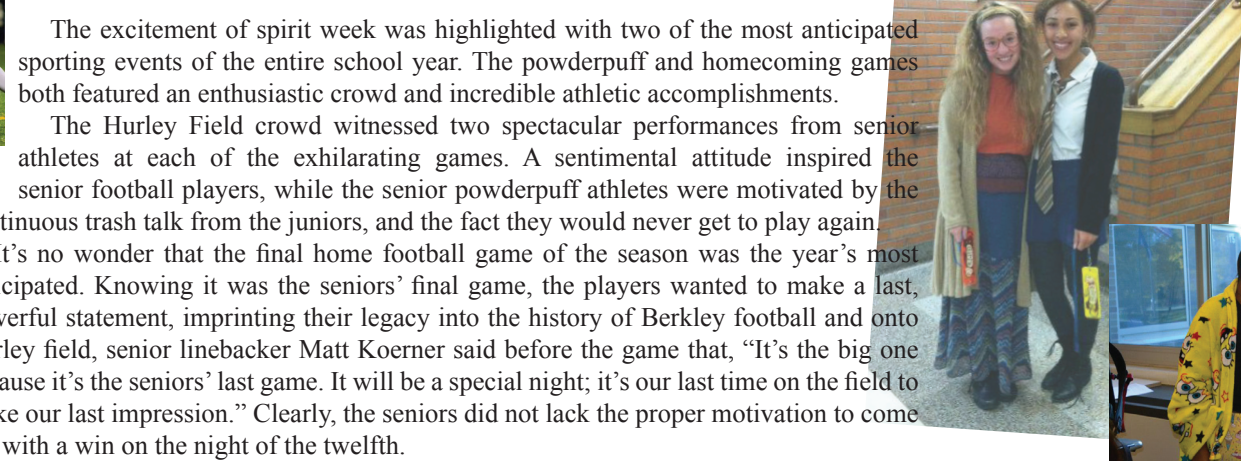
It's no wonder that the final home football game of the season was the year's most anticipated. Knowing it was the seniors' final game, the players wanted to make a last, powerful statement, imprinting their legacy into the history of Berkley football and onto Hurley field, senior linebacker Matt Koerner said before the game that, "It's the big one because it's the seniors' last game. It will be a special night; it's our last time on the field to make our last impression." Clearly, the seniors did not lack the proper motivation to come out with a win on the night of the twelfth.

This will to win was on full display, as the bears beat up on the Ferndale Eagles 35-14. This beating of Eagles on homecoming night, made as good of a last impression possible for the heavyhearted seniors. Amazing plays from seniors Kole Bishop and Eric Hudson highlighted the very exciting game and carried the team on to a very prominent victory.

In comparison, the powderpuff game was much more closely contested than the homecoming game. Similar to the homecoming game, however, the favored team prevailed, as the seniors defeated the juniors with a score of 14-6. While the actual game play was invigorating, the trash talk leading up to the game was the real highlight. Senior and assumed MVP of the game Melissa Dong-Dobson said, "Everyone doubted us, saying the seniors would lose, but, wait, I think, yeah, we won." The final score indicated that she, and all the other seniors, played with a little bit more of a fire in order to prove their doubters wrong.

Recognition should go out to the devoted fans who showed up in great masses to both athletic events. At the homecoming game, the fans were as loud as they have notoriously been this year. Vuvuzelas, horns, a cowbell and of course the powerful voices of Berkley students were featured at both events. All of these noise-making instruments displayed the enthusiasm Berkley students had for cheering on their team at the last homecoming game of the year. Through the stands, it was rare to find an empty seat on what was easily the most hyped up and populated game for Berkley Bears football this year. The end result warranted sheer happiness for the entirety of the fans who attended the exciting homecoming game. Junior Alex Rawlik, who is known for his enthusiasm for Berkley athletics, was proud of the team and the Berkley fans. He said, "Berkley has the best crowd, we are by far the most exciting fans in all of the OAA." The great turnout at both of these fantastic games would certainly back up Rawlik's point.

While some dimensions of each of the games differed, the overall atmosphere and feeling of pride in BHS really showed during these two phenomenal sporting events. This pride could be seen as the juniors and seniors passionately battled on and off the turf during the powderpuff festivities, and the unification of BHS pride, from incoming freshman to seasoned BHS alumni, was displayed during the emphatic victory in the homecoming games. Both of these games really embody the full extent of Berkley school spirit and students' passion for our great athletic programs.



# A VERY POTTER HOMECOMING

Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor

A Very Potter Homecoming, which took place on Oct. 13, was very successful. Thanks to Student Leadership, this year's dance was completely enjoyable for all, even with some having certain reservations at first about the theme. Upon walking in one noticed the hard work put into making this night magical for all. The theme was carried out as if Leadership had powers, and it looked as if students had stepped across the threshold into Hogwarts itself. There was even a nice, somewhat eerie glow to set the mood (provided the lights were thankfully off this year.)

"I loved being able to help this year with decorations and see how the gym came together by the time of the dance" sophomore Eliza Laramee said. With cobwebs hanging delicately from the ceiling above and administrators surrounding, BHS students and their respective guests were ready to hit the dance floor.

The music choices were sometimes questionable ("Gangnam Style" twice—c'mon!), and freshman Jacob Crane said, "there were no slow dances, [and] I really missed that." With the exception of these obvious lapses in musical taste, it was still pleasurable since the DJ eventually got to some of the more danceable music us "Twerkley" kids like to bump and grind with. With sweat pouring down most everyone's faces, it was proof the dance was an absolute hit.

As the night wore on and students began to tire, they retired to the good ole Bear Café for some nice shots of our favorite caffeinated drinks, provided by the one and only Mrs. Natalie Konwinski, clearly making the night even more spectacular.

As 10 o'clock rolled around it was a sad realization for most, for the night they spent hours of preparation for was coming to a close. Senior Rachel Spitzer said, "Homecoming this year was really fun because I got to be around all my classmates for one last homecoming." Senior Kaitlyn Siporin said, "It was great to be surrounded by my grade the whole night; it brought us together."

The night was a celebration of our school, and it united us for a time when we could all be together dressed up and dancing the night away. From freshmen and their first homecoming dance, to seniors and it being their last, it was a great time for all. It was definitely a night that all who attended will remember and cherish for years to come.



Photos courtesy of Moe Fernandez, Noah Duchan, Renee Hanna, Shelby Silver and Josh Radom

# Oh, the places students can go...to eat!

Lim-Lim Kobe '13, Freelance Writer

With the longest lunch period in Michigan and upperclassmen prowling the nearby cities, a frequent question comes up daily in Berkley High School: Where should we go for lunch? Socializing over a good meal relieves stress and gives kids something to look forward to during the school day. Luckily, in this urban setting, we have tons of local eateries to choose from. This chart provides crucial information on places to eat and will make decisions easier. Bon appetite!

Name of place :	Timed distance (driving/walking):	Food Served:	Serving Time:	Price Range:
Atomic Dawg	5 minutes/ 1 minute	Hot dogs	5-10 minutes	\$5-\$8
Mr. Kabobs	13 minutes/ 2 minutes	Shawarma, Kabobs, Pita Wraps, and other Mediterranean food	10 minutes	\$5-\$10
Hogger's BBQ	20 minutes/ 3-5 minutes	Barbeque and Sandwiches	5 minutes	\$6-\$10
The Panini Press	20 minutes/ 3-5 minutes	Sandwiches	5-10 minutes	\$6-\$8
Spice of Thai Express	8 minutes driving	Thai Food	5-10 minutes	\$6-\$8
Comet Burgers	10 minutes driving	Burgers, Sliders	5 minutes	\$5-\$8
Second Street Sub Shop	10 minutes driving	Subs	5-10 minutes	\$5-\$8
Burgz	10 minutes driving	Burgers	5-10 minutes	\$6-\$10
Noodles & Company	10 minutes driving	Noodles, Salads, and Sandwiches	5-10 minutes	\$6-\$10
Qdoba Mexican Grill	10 minutes driving	Mexican Food	5-10 minutes	\$5-\$10
Jimmy John's	10 minutes driving	Subs and Sandwiches	5-10 minutes	\$5-\$10
Little Brothers Burgers	10 minutes driving	Burgers, Sliders	5-10 minutes	\$5-\$10
Chipotle Mexican Grill	10-12 minutes driving	Mexican Food	5 minutes	\$6-\$8
Ernie's Market	12 minutes driving	Sandwiches	10 minutes	\$3-\$5

\*\*Please note: Walking distance is not included past two miles because it would take too long to walk during the lunch period and would be illogical. If you are to walk, I commend you, because that intense of exercise within 45 minutes is admirable.



## 14 THE SPECTATOR

## Mainstream, the new cool

Shelby Silver '14, Opinion Editor

Some of you upperclassmen may remember reading an article titled, "How to be a Hipster" by now alumni, Mitchell Levin a few years back. Recently, however, the Hipster-ship has sailed due to the overwhelming amount of 'wannabe' Hipsters. The teenagers of today are not only the coolest of the cool, but every one of them is so hipster that hipster isn't even hipster, but just a new conformity. No need to worry my sorry little hipsters, by teaching you how to dress, act, and speak, I will transform you all into becoming what I like to call a "Mainstream coolcat."

1.

First, you guys have to get rid of all of your "cool" music like: Of Monsters and Men, the Lumineers, Of Montreal, Duffy ect. Getting rid of all of this so called, "cool" music makes you different from everyone else, thus making it the new NEW "hipster." Start jamming out to J-Beibs, and I promise you'll be feeling a lot cooler.

3.

Now, I understand that odd looking glasses and cool hats are all the rage right now, but there is no need to go above and beyond, guys. Forget the Ray-Bans and the OBEY snap back hats, and don't wear anything. No hats, scarves, bangles, weird glasses, watches or rings because just by being super-duper contrary hipster, everyone will like you more.

4.

We got the music covered, and we have the wardrobe covered; now we gotta focus on what's on the inside. The "abysmal thoughts" of the everyday hipster are becoming so monotonous that it is just making everyone seem more cursory by trying to be *so* abysmal. I get that reading adamantine literature like *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, using capacious words like "imbecilic," and surmising about how if one can make a transmutation in the world they can make one feel superincumbent to the rest of us, but watching *Jersey Shore* is just cooler. Not only does *Jersey Shore* let you use words that will lower your I.Q like "grenade" or "gorilla," but it allows you to stop concentrating on school work and instead, "fist pump" the days away.

2.

Once you have gotten rid of all of your underground hip music, next is the wardrobe. Who needs Lost and Found Vintage when you have Abercrombie and Fitch/Hollister, Forever21 and American Eagle? No need for high waisted shorts or skinny jeans when all you now need is a graphic t-shirt, uggs and some nice and comfy yoga pants. If you are a male, then baggy jeans and a hoody will do in a pinch.

5.

Now that we are all on our way to becoming serious real non-hipster hipsters, there is no need for using proper grammar! Sure, still using grammar on a paper is fine, but since mainstream is the new hipster, we don't have to worry about spelling everything right. Don't listen to anyone who tells you to spell things correctly, because they are just fools. To help you out with your grammar issues, here is a small list to the right of examples to get you on your way to not caring.

## Examples:

1. Cool= Kewl
2. Oh my Gosh= O MER GURD
3. Who cares= hoo givez a poop
4. I love You= I luhhhh yew (emphasis on the luhhhh)
5. I make bad choices and I will regret all of this when I'm old and alone-YOLO

6.

While all of you hipster fellows are hangin' out at Goldfish Tea or Caribu Coffee and singing Bon Iver at open mic night, I'll be chillin' in my mommy's kitchen while she makes me grilled cheese. Not only is hanging out at home way cooler than spending money on bad tea/coffee, but I assure you that blasting Flo Rida and screaming "Low" around your house is way more fun and hip than snapping and clapping at the end of each bad performance at an open mic night.

## Get clubbin'

Kira Allen '14, Freelance Writer

Of the many clubs here at Berkley, there's sure to be one for you. If you missed Clubs in the Courtyard (or left to go to Taco Bell instead), here's some information on a few of the different clubs offered here. No matter what your passions, hobbies, or interests may include, getting involved in certain clubs is fun and helpful to both you and to BHS. So whether you're into politics, poetry, or the environment, just remeMber--there's a club for that.

## S.A.D.D.:

Students Against Destructive Decisions  
Ms. Ferrara's room 173  
Mondays at lunch

## Crossfire:

Political discussion/ debate forum  
Ms. Blackwell's room 270  
Mondays at lunch.

## Bridges:

Gay/ straight alliance  
Science F Ms. Thomann's room  
Tuesdays at lunch

## French Club:

French cultures and activities  
Mr. Bebeau's room 139  
Wednesdays at lunch.

## Poetry Club:

Poetry writing and performance workshops  
Mr. Cierpial's room 178  
Thursdays at lunch

## Environmental Club:

Environmental enthusiasm and activism  
Science E Mr. Bruen's room  
Thursdays at lunch.



Now that I have let you in on all my secrets on how to become a mainstream success, I have faith in every single one of you that you can become the "Mainstream coolcat" I knew you could be. Now go my lovelies, and I'll see you at the mall soaking in all of the Abercrombie and Hollister perfumes while attempting to find your way around Victoria's Secret. Make me proud.



# CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor and Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

On my first day of high school, I recall walking into the “senior doors,” and being nervous walking through doors that I thought were only for seniors. Oh my, how times have changed. In my three plus years thus far at Berkley High we have gone through four different athletic directors, multiple assistant principal changes, a new principal, a schedule change, a new superintendent, and many teachers coming and going. In the ever-changing landscape that is BHS, it can sometimes be difficult to find one’s niche.

Our first day here was plagued with nervousness and anxiety, and our expectations were massive while we were miniscule. We slowly began to fit into a school we once deemed too big for us to ever belong, and along the way we all found our place. This school has provided us with education, but more than that, it has provided a home away from home for the years we have attended. Whether you hate it or love it, it was required that 40 weeks of every year was spent here.

Most seniors are radically different than the day they stepped through the doors of this high school a mere three years ago. Through the years at BHS, seniors have changed and grown, found new friend groups, and new hobbies. We have simply grown up. This year we look forward to graduating and moving out, becoming our own person truly and gaining real independence. Senior year is beginning to prepare us for our lives ahead, and as we mature we realize what we are beginning to lose as we look onward to stepping out of those “senior” doors once and for all.

We each had our days here that were dreaded and in my case, most were. Classes were spent daydreaming of the days where I could escape this school. As my time here is heading towards an end, though, I begin to find this place is a part of me and will forever be. BHS, the administration, the teachers and all my classmates have molded me into what I have become, and what I believe to be a better version of my once naïve and immature freshman self. This school has seen us grow up. When we leave here we are adults, the guidance given to us throughout our four years here is in our minds and no longer shoved in our faces every day. We will take all the knowledge this school has given us to succeed in a world beyond BHS.

This school has helped build us up and the insecurities we held as freshman have turned to confidence. Melissa Dong-Dobson said, “As a freshman I was not confident but as I’ve been here for three years it has built up my confidence and helped me become a more poised person.” We have grown into our differences and embraced them. We all witnessed each other come into our own and helped each other develop into more dignified and truly self-assured young adults.

The class of 2013 has all had their own share of ups and downs, rather they be our own or with our peers. With doubts and triumphs, we have gained experience and acceptance. At once our grade was divided; we shared no commonalities and denied approval of our classmates. But as our time to depart here is fast approaching, we have finally become united. From the first day of our final year we have shown we can all relate and our respect for each other is vast.

Thankfully, not one of us is the same and we all will continue on different paths after we exit the graduation stage, but until then we will carry on changing and growing into ultimately the people we want to be, with the help of our old and new surroundings. As the wise Troy Bolton once said “we are all in this together.”

2009-10



2010-11



2011-12



2012-13



All photos courtesy of Seniors Daniella Silver, Renne Hanna, and Nolan Young



# 16 THE SPECTATOR

## High school students' summers get progressively more busy academically

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

As the years go on and BHS students inch closer to the start of the rest of their lives, they begin to lose a little piece of the only thing they've come to rely on as a stress release: summer vacation. From June to September students are provided with the only freedom from the grueling daily grind that the school year pressures them with.

Progressing through high school, students must devote some of their precious summer time to various academically related activities. If a BHS student wants to be ahead in the competitive game of getting into a reputable college, then they must take some of their sacred summer time to focus on this feat.

Junior year is often said to be the most important year because of students' increased schedule difficulty and the always intimidating and ever present ACT exponentially increasing their stress. Preparation for the ACT is necessary, in most cases, if a student is motivated to get into the college they want. Studying from ACT books, along with professional tutoring, can consume a great amount of students' coveted summer break. However, preparation is not the only task for students concerned about the ACT. The test is actually offered during the summer month of June and again right after school starts in September. I, for one, do not think many students want to be cramming for their ACT, studying during the school year when they are already being pressured with the usual school-day grievances. Rather, studying during their time in the summer, without the many pressures that school provides, would be a much less stressful option, but at what cost does it come to their precious summer break?

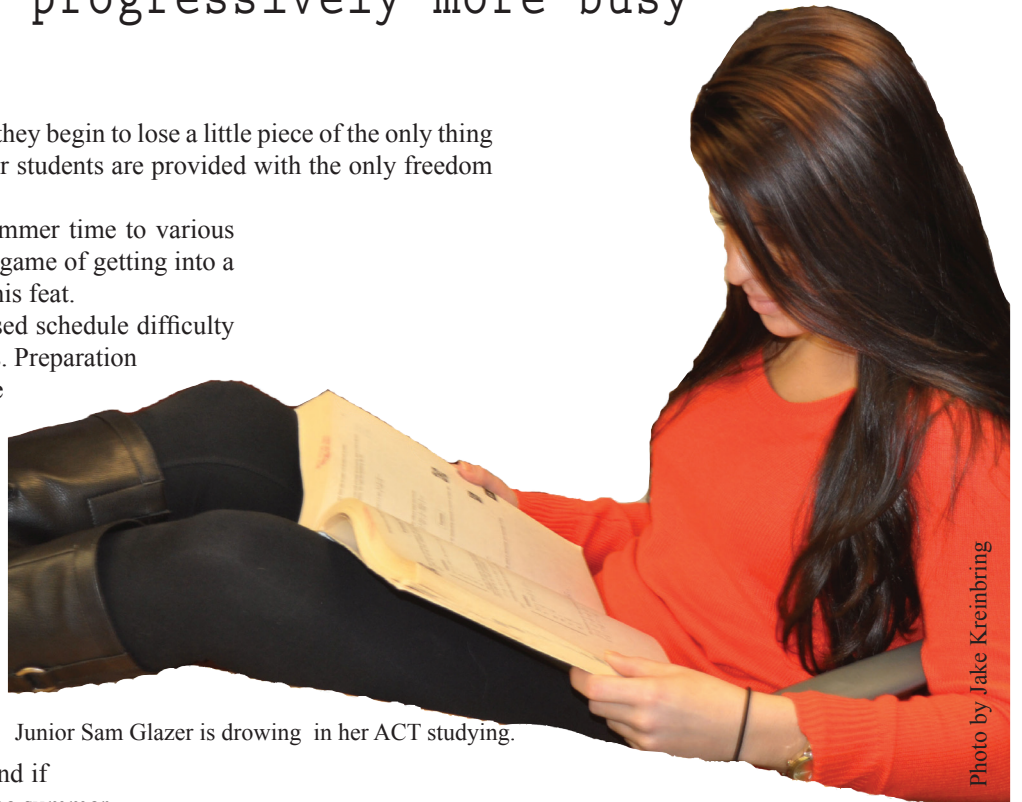
For seniors, college applications require complete focus. In addition, if a student is applying to multiple universities then it is necessary that he or she start thinking about topics for these college essays. The college essay could take weeks to perfect and if colleges require multiple supplements then students often start brainstorming during the summer.

Finally, what would an article about the increased workload for high school students be without the always present, and student-feared summer reading assignment? As students have progressed through school, the English assignment that they always hope their teacher will forget to mention at the end of the year has become longer and more prominent. This is, however, inevitable as assignments always advance in difficulty and length as students age and one's intellect advances. Students are still expected to read a book or multiple books along with the always prevalent quote identification and analysis. These assignments, along with the reading, require deep thought and textual analysis. True focus and dedication to these tasks can prove lengthy and lead to a loss of concrete summer time.

Junior Zack Segall has also begun to notice the increased difficulty of the summer reading assignments and the negative effect it has had on his summer "me" time. Segall agrees that books have gotten longer and thus, have eaten up more of his precious summer time. This junior though, is more concerned with the negative secondary effects that the reading takes out on him.

Segall was opposed to *The Grapes of Wrath* this summer and said in terms of negative repercussions that, "The book made me fall asleep more than I wanted to." This says something about intrigue of the selected book, but more importantly exposes how more of his own summer was consumed into schoolwork.

The assignments and pressures students are experiencing during their summer breaks are gradually becoming more and more substantial. For juniors, this amount of summer work seems to be barreling down on them, with no sign of stopping soon. Each year this summer workload increases in order to prepare students for the hectic real world that awaits them in just a few, short years. All of these factors combine to cut into the precious summer time students covet yet are very slowly losing.



Junior Sam Glazer is drawing in her ACT studying.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring



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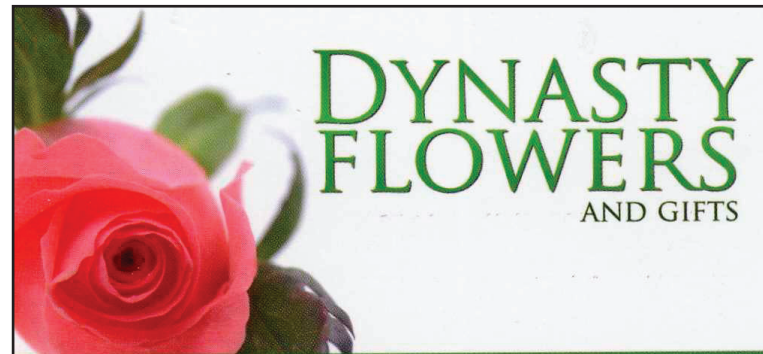
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# HITS AND MISSES OF OCTOBER

**HIT:** The Rollercoaster  
Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor



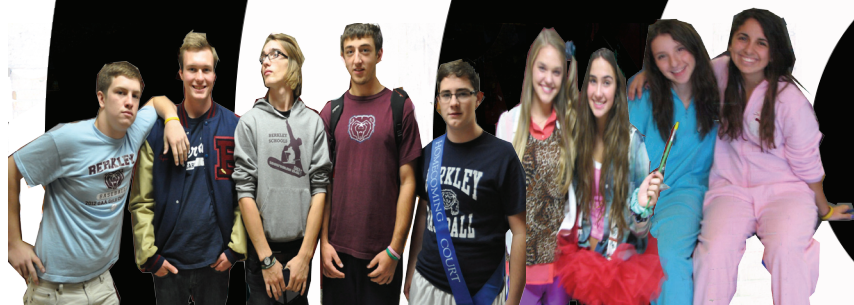
Photo courtesy of Moe Fernandez

Not to say the past varsity football seasons have been at all boring, but this year's games include something to really get one's blood pumping. The "Rollercoaster," started at BHS by one of our very own: senior and blast in a glass Dugan Fernandez. The reaction from BHS students has been nothing but positive. "Everybody loves it, and people cannot get enough of it," Fernandez said. This makes the audience stay in the game and keeps them energized. Fernandez went on to say that, "The point is to get the crowd back into the game and hype up the football team." With football season now over, will the "Rollercoaster," legacy continue? Stay tuned fellow bears.

**MISS:** No Tank-Tops  
Lindsay McFern '13, Student Life Editor



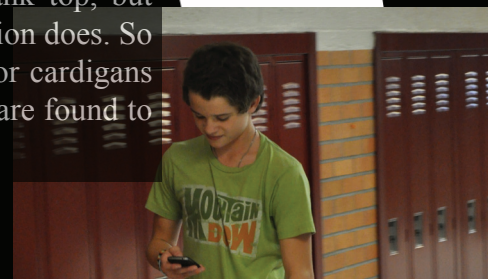
The rule at BHS that tank tops are completely prohibited is ludicrous. The student handbook states all shirts must have a two inch sleeve. Although I concede that showing too much skin is unsuitable for the school environment, on a hot day it should be allowed for students to cool off since our school does not provide air-conditioned classrooms. Also, in the winter we swelter just the same thanks to the unrelenting heating system. It is understandable to ban short shorts, tube tops, and midriff-baring shirts because of the blatant inappropriate nature, but tank tops, really? If worn in a proper manner, I do not see a problem with a simple tank top, but apparently the administration does. So for now it is cap sleeves or cardigans to hide the shoulders that are found to be just too revealing.



**HIT:** Spirit Week  
Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

This year at Berkley, Spirit Week had both good and bad days in terms of participation, but overall it was a success. The theme for Monday was Pajama Day and it was awesome since students love to be as comfortable as possible when as they're forced to sit in those uncomfortable metal chairs all day. A lot of students showed up wearing some pretty outrageous outfits on Tuesday for Wacky Tacky Day. Some were so insane and "wacky" but also "tacky" that they caught second glances and stares as they walked down the hallway. The only day where the participation was rather low was Thursday Theme Day aka Harry Potter and that is because the average student doesn't naturally own much wizard apparel. But even without robes, eyeliner was available to draw lightning scars on one's foreheads. The best day of the week was Friday, Color Day. Almost every single student rocked the color of their grade using handmade shirts and face paint. Generally, Spirit Week was a success and each day brought new and creative outfits to the halls of Berkley High.

**HIT:** Phones during passing time  
Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Sports Editor



This year the BHS administration decided to allow phone usage during passing time. Although the use of phones was band before, every time I walked down the crowded hallways I could spot countless "phone-walkers," with their eyes lost in the brightness of their phones, aimlessly texting. These obsessed "texters," desperate for pointless conversation with their friends, ignored the rules for years now. Teachers confiscated many phones during the passing time, but it was problematic to return them since teachers did not know many of those students. "Instead of wasting our time stopping students from doing it, we allowed them to use phones anyway," Principal Mr. Randall Gawel said. So whether you want to text your friends or call your boss, you can now do it in between the classes.

Photos by Jake Kreinbring



18 THE SPECTATOR

THE DOWNFALL OF FACEBOOK

Josh Radom '16, Assistant Opinion Editor

For as long as most teenagers can remember, Facebook has been the one place where people of all ages can connect, stalk, and get the latest updates on what is going on around their virtual community. Although Facebook has been a prominent part of most of their lives, most of today's teenage population has gained new and different interests like photo editing and hashtags. With the new social interests, come new social networks that have claimed the top spot on the online communication ladder, where Facebook once was.

Over the last year Facebook has seen a major drop in its popularity. Yahoo! News states, "Facebook has experienced a seven percent drop in users." On Sept. 28, 2012, 70 students at BHS took a survey in their English classes asking about their social networking habits. Freshmen Jane Hammerle said, "I have definitely been using Facebook less since I have started using Twitter." Results showed that, 97 percent of BHS students have used Facebook less since other social networks were introduced.

Twitter is currently used the most by 72 percent of the students surveyed, making it the most popular social network at BHS and probably everywhere else. These results prove that Facebook, because of new social networks like Twitter, is being used less than before because more online social services became available.

To compete with other social networks, Facebook has created new apps that resemble

features much like the ones that Instagram has. It has also tried to create a new, totally redesigned interface for the mobile iPhone app. However, Facebook has failed at creating a fast, easy, functional iPhone app. From year to year it has changed, but they still have not created anything close to the best version.

"I rarely ever go on Facebook, but I am an avid tweeter," senior Ben Malkin said. He has been using Twitter for about a year now, and said "I like it better because there are less ads and it's easier to use," unlike Facebook who is selling more ad space to make more money.

Although Facebook has not had a successful year, it does have the potential for a comeback. It has been developing new apps to go along with the social network such as its "Gift Giving" service. This service enables the user to buy gift cards and other online capable gifts. The usage of "Gift Giving" makes Facebook a lot of money because they are getting paid a part of the business's profit.

Facebook has been on top for years, but with all of the new social networks surfacing it has been experiencing many profit and popularity drops. The Facebook era may have finally met its match.

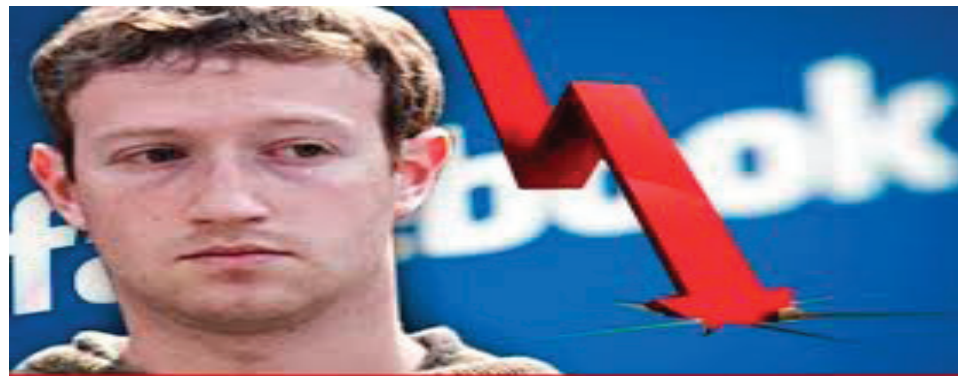


Photo courtesy of alfredchansport.com



Graphic courtesy of dissociatedpress.com

WITH FALL COMES SEASON PREMIERES

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

Fall is finally here, which means a new school year, and of course, the return of constant business. However, students seem to always be able to arrange their packed schedules around the fall premieres of their favorite TV shows. Math homework, lab write-ups, and reading assignments all become insignificant when a beloved sitcom or drama is making its seasonal return.

This behavior is generally frowned upon by the typical responsible onlooker. It has been said millions of times though,TV stress of the school students' brains, sometimes be the perfect what it is—a break. If that's a replacement.

Not only do television shows provide a refreshing escape from bustling lives, but returning this fall followings. The dressed-Anatomy, made its season BHS sophomore Olivia Duncan is an avid watcher of the medical drama.



many shows have impressive up soap opera, Grey's premier this October. is an avid watcher of the medical drama.

"On Thursdays, I make sure to finish all my homework before 9 o'clock. My mom comes home and we watch it together, it's become kind of a family thing," Duncan said. "The dynamics between the characters and the drama in the show take my mind off everything that happened that day." Duncan's watching experience not only provides her an escape from everyday troubles, but also allows for bonding time with her family,

something that is often lost during the bustle of the school year.

Freshman Jacob Murphy is a follower of many current television shows, including *The Walking Dead*, *Hell on Wheels*, and *The Inbetweeners*, but his homework must be finished before tuning in. Murphy said, "I like that I am able to zone into a show and escape the worries of schoolwork [for the time it is on]."

Another popular show that recently made its fall premier is Showtime's *Dexter*, a crime show about a man who must kill, but channels his homicidal needs onto other killers. Senior Jake Vincent is a huge fan of the drama. "I make sure all my homework is done before the show comes on," he said. "There's totally an hour set aside for *Dexter*."

Vincent, too, is temporarily distracted from life by the excitement of the show. "The intensity of it brings your blood pressure up and really gets you into it," Vincent said.

True, the majority of shows on TV may not be educational or intellectually stimulating, but therein lies the beauty. During the stressful school year, television is used as a mode of escape, and this will be achieved at any cost, be it the delay of calculus homework, or a little less studying for physics. Students harbor enormous stress during the school year, and the newly premiering television shows, no matter how trite, offer the perfect antidote.



Courtesy of getgluestickers.com



# The not so innovative iPhone

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

The official release date of the iPhone 5 was Sept. 21, but people have been camped out as early as Sept 13. It has become tradition for people to camp out for nights on end to purchase the newest Apple smart phone. The entire scene was a circus of consumer culture all dedicated to the newest, fastest, and coolest smart phone, but was it all worth it?

According to Apple, the new iPhone is “slimmer, lighter, and faster.” but is it fast enough to keep up with the competition? The phone is now using 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution), which allows super-fast mobile downloads, yet the technology has been around publicly since February of 2011. The phone claims new “innovations” with its panoramic shot. By moving the phone, users can take pictures of a large area or scene. Phones and cameras have been offering this feature for a long time now, and even the older iPhone already has had an app, 360 Panorama, that does this. This is unfortunately the trend with the new innovations. Many are sub-par, using old technology creating Apple’s weakest offering to date, making it the least innovative of the phones so far.

All previous iPhones came with a genuinely new feature. They had the Retina display, a front facing camera, and Siri. But the iPhone 5 lacks those crucial innovations that Apple has become known for. No new features have been introduced to this phone that did not already exist. Apple’s new things added to the phone included making the iPhone 5 slimmer, lighter, and taller. They added the new “A6” chip which makes the phone’s connection and interfaces faster. But other than these features,

which really do not make the phone that much desirable, the iPhone 5 is not up to par.

The most innovative thing about the iPhone 5 is a new jack, however it is a hassle and introduces an inconvenience to owners of previous apple products. As loyal Apple customers bought iPhones, iPods, and iPads, the number of adapters grew in their homes. These were interchangeable, but now, Apple has rendered those useless. The iPhone 5 has a special adapter that is only compatible with the iPhone 5. This means a large number of adapters that have been useful are now obsolete.

The iPhone 5 will still be bought by millions of people, but the overall inconvenience and lack of innovation on Apple’s part makes it tough to stomach a \$799 price tag (without a two year upgrade). This price tag should mean there is far more innovations than Apple’s latest product offer. Sophomore Hailee Halprin said, “That [price] is ridiculous!”

It might turn out that Apple’s blunder will turn into gains by other smartphone makers like Samsung, which already has a commercial mocking the new iPhone. Freshman Isaiah Trial has the Samsung Galaxy S3 and finds it, “Better than the iPhone by far. The iPhone is over rated and to expensive”. With the loss of the creative genius of its founder, Steve Jobs, the question facing Apple is whether it will be able to continue creating innovative “must have” products that push the industry forward or sinks back into the pack. The iPhone 5, while not a complete failure, does not make the statement Apple consumers are looking for.



The Administrators taking care of business on their iPhones.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring



Photo by Jake Kreinbring

Senior Ava Landgraf texting away on her iPhone.

## YOU GO GIRL: SINGLE SEX SPORTS INTEGRATED

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

Gender is no longer the defining characteristic of football players at Berkley High School. The JV team has a new member who will cause others to do a double take when the players run onto the field.

Freshman Alexia "Lexi" Tyler is the first girl in six years to join the team. As a young girl, she wasn't drawn to the sparkle and sequins of other traditionally "girly" sports, but to the football field. During recess she would throw a perfect spiral while the other girls giggled in a circle braiding each other's hair. Her natural interest in football was unexpected, but allowed her to develop a strong bond with her older brother and father through ritualistic viewings of Saturday and Sunday football games.

She comes from a long line of football players, and while they wore cups, her upper body just has to tough it out. Her older brother alumni Zachary Tyler was a member of the JV and varsity teams from 2002-2006. Her dad, Todd Tyler, was his coach and was also a player from 1982-1984 for JV and varsity teams.

Tons of girls, myself included, have had family members who played football in high school and we were not so automatically drawn to the sport. However, the anomaly of having another female member of the football team during this time can be attributed to her sparked interest. Alumni Megan Walton was a member of the football team the year Tyler's brother played. "I would go to all the football practices and games with my dad and brother and saw her out there not afraid to play with the guys," Tyler said. She said Walton was her main inspiration when she decided to join the team.

Before this year she had never played on an organized team. It was just a hobby, then she took a chance and tried out for the JV team. Her passion paid off when she was awarded the first string kicker spot on the JV depth chart.

The other members of the Berkley JV team protect Tyler as if she were their younger sister; members on opposing teams though, tend not to be as caring. These players have been conditioned to show no mercy. So, even though she's a girl, they don't go easy on her. The "no hitting girls" rule is inapplicable when she's on the field--the players don't think twice about tackling her. But Tyler doesn't mind, she appreciates being treated as equally brutal as any guy would be.

She may not be 6'5, 250 pounds or have to wear a cup, but Tyler exemplifies for girls everywhere that she can play just as hard and just as well as any guy can. People and media outlets that portray football as a male-dominated sport can take note from Tyler and change their pre-conceived notions. She plans to continue to play, and quite well, for her entire high school career. So, classes of 2015 and 2017, watch out- you have a real powderpuff threat to worry about.



Lexi Tyler kicks a field goal.

Photo by Jeffery Bonello

## TENNIS TEAM PLACES TENTH IN STATES

Emma Weisberger '16, Circulation Manager

For the first time since 1999 the BHS varsity tennis team made it all the way to the state championships on Oct. 19 and placed tenth. Coach and social studies teacher Mr. Lenny Waldman is thrilled with his team's performance. He said, "States were a long shot for us because of the teams we were going up against."

Berkley competed in a division of 22 teams, of which they placed tenth. The ending placement they finished in was the second best position in the history of Berkley tennis. After getting many compliments from other tennis coaches on their performance, Waldman said, "We were the Cinderella story of the tournament."

Number one singles player Noah Kretchmer said, "We feel very accomplished and we feel that we represented our school very well by being the first team to go to states since 1999." Kretchmer also said, "Sam Subia was the MVP. He got to the semifinals, which was the best finish out of all of us."





# STATE DREAMS DASHED

## VARSITY SOCCER SUFFERS LOSS AFTER GREAT SEASON

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor  
Corey Lipton '16, Assistant Copy Editor

As October came dribbling in, the State Cup for varsity soccer came too, and although the boys made a strong play for a title, they were ousted on Oct. 19 by Birmingham Groves with a 3-2 loss.

The Berkley varsity soccer team had a good season with a record of 15-6-2 and this year they were looking to compete for the State Cup. With two strong wins over Avondale who were the reigning State Cup champs, confidence was boosted among the players, fans and coaches alike. Berkley advanced past the first round, beating Brother Rice 5-4 in a thrilling victory. After numerous state cups, starting goalkeeper and senior Josh Shifman, felt optimistic going into this cup. Shifman said, "Our team has solid defense, and over the season our conditioning has improved."

Two of the shining stars on the Berkley varsity team this past season were junior Eric Towns and senior John DiNunzio, both forwards. After starting together for three years, the chemistry between Towns and DiNunzio was strong. Both boys had high expectations, but as athletes know, things can change on the field in an instant. Both Towns and DiNunzio were excited about the team's strong fan base. Towns said, "The fans helped us a lot during home games." The



Junior Eric Towns slips between two defenders from Royal Oak.

this year until the Captain and senior of the team's offense Stuart was able to move the ball around very well, and although BHS offense on a major threat. Stuart Cup is a very exciting Super-fan Nolan the team very closely, to appreciate the skill team.

As the season team and school were defense and skillful attacking. Berkley had a lot of potential going into the season and although they lost in the district finals to Groves, they and their fans are proud of their season.

Bears were undefeated at home rainy district final loss.

Sage Stuart was a big part and defense this season. move the ball around very Groves put a stop to the Friday night, he was still said, "Going to the State challenge. It would [have end our senior year." Young had been following and felt the fans were able and effort of the varsity

came to an abrupt end, the proud of the Bears' solid

defense and skillful attacking. Berkley had a lot of potential going into the season and although they lost in the district finals to Groves, they and their fans are proud of their season.

# LACROSSE CLUB IS IN THE WORKS

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Sports Editor

Lacrosse club is being formed at BHS for either this year's spring season or next.

Junior Alex Wilkinson and sophomore Max Dooley are on a mission to add lacrosse to the school's club lineup. Both Wilkinson and Dooley did not play on a team before, but this did not discourage them from getting involved in the development of the club. Dooley believes lacrosse is a fun and exciting sport and since most of the schools in the area have teams or clubs, it would be great to get one in ours.

The club's major issue is the funding, or rather, a lack of funding. "Our school does not have the money," Dooley said. With all the other sports the school pays for, there seems to be no money that can be allocated for a lacrosse club. Wilkinson and Dooley are looking for various ways to support the club, and plan to initiate a fundraiser in the future. They are searching for different sponsors to help with all of the expenses, but it seems that future players will have to pay for some of the equipment out of their own pockets.

The idea of a lacrosse club is gradually getting more popular throughout BHS. At their first informational meeting, more than forty people showed up, Wilkinson said. The club is not finalized yet, but anyone inquiring about joining the team or helping to support it can contact Alex Wilkinson or Max Dooley for further details.



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# TIGERS SWEEP YANKEES, WORLD, SERIES BOUND

Jake Rothman '14, Feature Editor

While about five and a half months of the lengthy six-month Major League Baseball regular season was a disappointment for this year's Detroit Tigers, it seems all they needed was a miniscule two weeks to show their true potential and actually look like a playoff team.

Going into the year, the Tigers' fans had unbelievably high expectations. Signing one of the off-season's premiere sluggers, Prince Fielder, had Detroiters envisioning a division title by mid-August and eventually a World Series Championship.

The Tigers' regular season was full of let downs and heartbreak which had many fans questioning the entire organization. Junior Jacob Myers said he was "very disappointed in the team because they had such high expectations and were not even close to meeting them, for most of the year." This opinion expressed the feelings the entire Tigers fan base felt as the season was drudging along through July and August.

However, the way the Tigers ended their season in September has Detroit buzzing. The team caught their division foe, the Chicago White Sox, in the last week of the regular season and they have not looked back. They clinched the division title, defeated the Oakland A's in the American League Division Series, and have since took a commanding lead against the Yankees in the American League Championship Series.

It seems that the postseason environment has caused Tigers players to live up to their high potential and meet the expectations held for them.

Individual accomplishments and also failures are taking most of the spotlight off the Tigers team's collective efforts. The Tigers have the frontrunner for MVP and the first triple crown winner in 45 years on their team, Miguel Cabrera, along with superstars, pitcher Justin Verlander, first baseman Prince Fielder, center fielder Austin Jackson and pitcher Max Scherzer. The faithful fans in Detroit also deserve some praise, since they have helped the team sell three million tickets for the first time ever. All these are good signs that if the Tigers continue the streak they are on right now, then their lack luster season could very well have a storybook ending as they play the San Francisco Giants in the World Series beginning on Oct. 24.



# The quest for self-identity

Alison Jones '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Let's face it. The time has come when everyone around you is asking, "Where are you going after this year?" or "What are you going to do?". And for a lot of us, that answer is unfortunately, "I don't know." Even when colleges ask what you want to major in, a good majority of us will check that 'Undecided box' and figure it out when we get there. But time is running out, and those impending decisions on who you want to be and where you see yourself are fast approaching.

Most 17 and 18-year-old young adults think that we have the world at our fingertips, and that we are untouchable, not thinking about the future or the consequences as to what will happen later in our lives. Yet we all need to face the fact that we are the product of our actions, and we are the only ones who can control our own destiny. Now I'm not saying kids should stay home every Saturday night and not go out and do fun things, because we are still those young kids, but all I'm saying is to do it sparingly. Be adventurous, be inspiring, but do it with class and with respect for yourself and those around you. Making these sound choices will define you forever; people will remember you by your actions alone.

While embarking on what I believe to be the most enjoyable and fast paced year of my life, those of us lucky students in Ms. Natalie Taylor's AP Literature class, read the novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. Although it takes place in rural Georgia in the 1920s, the messages are still very relevant today. The main character, Celie, has been both physically and mental beaten throughout her entire life. She has endured the hardest things one could ever imagine, losing who she was because of the struggles she faced. Though most of us could never imagine going through even half the things Celie has, in a way we can all relate. Celie was made to feel as though she had no voice and no say in the way things had gone in her life. As Celie grew up and matured, she realized that she was a person with her own voice, and she could make a name for herself. That's what all of us here can do; because high school is our own form of a struggle. We struggle to find our place, our voice and our calling here in four years. Now that's a lot to ask of young adults, but it is what is necessary. It's necessary for us to grow as people in the real world.

We all have the potential to be great, and to find whatever we are good at. Not everyone is good at the same thing, just like no two people are alike. But that's what makes us all special; we all have these talents and skills that some other people might not possess. For instance, Eric Hudson has the ability to hypnotize the entire population of Hurley Field on any given Friday night using only his hands, and Rachael Wojta is able to captivate an entire audience with just one note, serenading audiences in everything from the Variety Show to the Dance Team show in March. These seniors, along with what I'm sure to be many other students, have found their niche, and that one special talent or skill that is superior to any other. That is part of life; finding the things you are good at and then figuring out how to maximize on them. If you are one of those lucky ones who know exactly what they want to do at this point in your life, consider yourself fortunate and capitalize on that. If not, that is okay. It is okay not knowing where you are going right now in your life as long as you go somewhere. Take a job, go to a university or to community college. Just do something in your life that you will be proud of, and make your time there count.

Being in high school and being a teenager is all about finding out who you want to be when you are older. Finding yourself certainly won't, for most, happen overnight. But maybe that's the bright side in all this, finding all these talents and making them our own. Whatever you do, be daring, be brilliant, but whatever you choose to be in your life, do it with greatness.

# Learning to accept high school

Jimmy Demery '13, Entertainment Editor

When I walked through the doors of Berkley High School on Sept. 4, 2012 to begin my 13<sup>th</sup> and (thankfully) final year of schooling in the Berkley School District, a fantastic feeling came over me. I thought to myself that this is it, this is the year I finally get to be a senior. However, I can't help but feel slightly melancholy about it. Don't get me wrong, I can't wait to take my leave from this fine educational institution, but the end of my career at BHS signals the end of my relationships with many people I have known for a long time, which is something I am definitely not looking forward to.

Take, for instance, Paula Weiser and Rick Blanchard, two exemplary human beings who, after I graduate, I will most likely never see again. The loss of relationships like those are what makes the jump from high school to college that much more different than anything we as a class have ever experienced. Ever since pre-school and kindergarten we have grown and climbed the rungs of the proverbial school ladder together. From elementary school to middle school, and middle school to high school we have always gone through those periods of change together, and though the majority of us will be going to college, not many of us will be going to the same college. Knowing that, I say who cares if school falls slightly by the wayside, spend as much time as possible with the people you will miss the most when we escape the 248. Sure this isn't the final goodbye, we'll come home and see certain people some weekends, maybe for a summer or two after we graduate, but the bonds we've formed over all these years will, for the majority, fall apart as people lose connection with people they have spent their entire lives with. Now this is not as doom and gloom as I am portraying, but you get the idea. For the most part we will not see, unless by coincidence, any of our current classmates unless we choose to. For some that might be a relief, for others a rough thing to handle.

But you may ask, isn't that what college is all about? Branching out, socially blossoming and meeting new people and friends? Personally I'm fine with the crowd I'm with now, at times not so much the environment and location, but the people and the experiences we have together make sticking through one more, at times somewhat excruciating school year, extremely bearable.

I guess through all this rambling what I am trying to say is enjoy the friends you have and the memories you make in high school, because they do not last forever and time flies by regardless of how scared you may feel be. Whether you plan on going out of state to some prestigious, expensive university, or staying at home for a semester or two of OCC, we are coming to the end of one chapter of our life and the beginning of a new one, which brings much more freedom and responsibility. The stakes are also that much higher.

Well, I guess if you're going to take anything from this thing my peers so kindly called a column, it would be this, don't rush through high school, or for that matter anything just because you are anxious about the future. Sit back, relax and take things in stride, worry about the friends you make and the memories you share with them not what you got on your English paper. Enjoy high school while you are here, you will never these experiences with these people again.



## HOW I LEARNED TO TAKE A DEEP YOGA BREATH AND CONTINUE ON WITH LIFE

Veronica Marchese '13, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Once upon a time, on a gloomy Friday morning at about 10:20, I was sitting in my third hour Anatomy class taking a lab practical, feeling melancholy and mawkish (Ms. Taylor, I hope you're reading this), ready to possibly throw up or cry like the little kids at my work who just got their Legos taken away.

That Friday morning, at 6:13, I lay in bed hoping, wishing, and praying that my mom, by the grace of all that is holy, would come upstairs and catch my roving alarm clock that has now made its way under my bed (after jumping off the nightstand and rolling around playing me the song of its people). This moment, not the first nor the last, makes me feel as if a demeter (HP reference seems fitting following homecoming) is sucking all the happiness out of the world. This moment is the moment that makes me feel sick to my stomach, as if I could, at any moment, spontaneously combust and be medically obligated to skip school (okay maybe not that dramatic, but you get the idea).

Ideally, I'm a senior, so I should be able to skip school when I see fit, take a personal day (ya know how it is). But instead, day in and day out, like clockwork, I go to my six classes, receive four-five subjects of homework, then directly from school I go to work till 5:30 and from 5:30 to bedtime I do my homework and study. Every day. Seriously, every day, without fail.

This routine led me to that early morning moment on that miserable Friday when I was sitting at my desk listening to Mr. Mike Skowronski repeat dauntingly, "Part. Part. Part" and "Tissue. Tissue. Tissue" while I guessed like a blind man on about 20 questions, and seemed to know near to nothing. I was, to put it simply, overwhelmed. I was overwhelmed by senior year, college applications, and well, just life in general.

So what's wrong with this whole situation? I did something most seniors do but are told doesn't happen: I took on a hard schedule. I submitted my college applications, which was a very stressful and hesitant click of the mouse, and I have a part time job that takes place every day after school and on vacation days we have off from school. A more stressful situation to come is choosing where to go, assuming (well, mostly hoping) I get into the colleges to which I applied.

So why did I do all of this? Well, I obviously had to submit my college applications, and I took a job to help pay for my senior year expenses instead of pushing it all on my parents. But now why did I take on such a hard schedule? I thought that by doing so I would be preparing myself for the college classroom. I took Anatomy to challenge myself and prepare for a pre-med orientated college life. Most people who slack off this year do it for the same reason my fellow senior Sean Calendar did. He "took an easy schedule because [he knew he would busy] with college apps and baseball, [and] plus it's senior year and [he doesn't] give a \*\*\*\*." That's a good reason right? In no offense to Mr. Calendar, I say that is 100 percent wrong. I took a hard schedule and got a job because how else will I prepare myself for the rest of my life? Slacking off one year of my life will not make the rest any easier. And I've learned to accept that and deal with all the stress it brings.

So you're now sitting here with this wonderfully put together paper in your hands, wondering what this all means to you. Well, dear reader, I shall enlighten you. Like the children at my work, we had six years of slack, with little to no homework, when we then moved on to a little more rigor in middle school, then to high school where many students stay up to the wee hours of the morning studying and doing homework, and finally we will all graduate and move on to college (ideally), where we will then lose an immense amount of sleep since a bulk of the courses one is required to take will eat up the majority of our time, and only a small remainder will be allotted for developing a social life. So those of us who have decided to prepare ourselves the right way, and who took on an overwhelming schedule, we must accept the fact that, although we may want to throw up from stress and often feel overwhelmed in life, we will continue to be overwhelmed even when we can get a job and are then hopefully successful. We should take comfort in the solace that we've prepared ourselves for the permanent feeling of being overwhelmed, since that is what life will undoubtedly bring.

## WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES, TWEET ABOUT IT

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Editor-in-Chief

A few weeks ago students were informed about the untimely death of a fellow peer. My entire AP Calculus class became eerily silent as Mr. Weingarden relayed us the information verbatim from the sheet he was given. It contained the name of the student and the fact that he had died. It asked us not to talk about possible details, as we may not know their factuality. It also provided possible coping methods- stating that all counselors were available to talk if any student needed. Although we continued on with class as we had before, the mood was undoubtedly a more somber and absolutely confused one.

This dysphoria, though, was not handled by talking to a counselor or friend who could sympathize, but rather expressed through numerous Facebook statuses, tweets, and filtered Instagram pictures. Each took on almost any form, as any post on a social networking site can do- from the overarching general and concise "RIP," to "I didn't know you, but...," to actual long and loving messages from those of whom were friends with the deceased. But regardless of the form, by their sole presence of existing on a social networking site such posts take on the connotation as being informal and careless.

Throughout the history of *The Spectator*, and in this current issue as well, there have been numerous articles dealing with social networking sites and their intended usages. Usually, no conclusions are drawn. It is determined that the functions for the most part are all subjective and left to be determined by the user. However, the technical definition of "Social Networking" is: the use of dedicated websites and applications to communicate informally with other users, or to find people with similar interests to oneself. The subject of death, and specifically death in this instance, is generally not something that should be taken lightly or "communicate[d] informally." With options such as "Like" and "Retweet" present, it appears that the possible reaction from others is severely limited. And with only such informal choices existing, the inappropriateness should become evident.

We have become so intertwined with social networking that it has evolved into a lifestyle rather than something used for recreational purposes. And when something becomes so commonplace, the messages conveyed lose significance. For example, I've been late to first hour seven times since the year has started, and I guarantee that number will have increased by the time this issue comes out. For the first week or two my teacher and classmates were appalled and disrupted when I'd stumble in around 8:10 twice a week. But, as school progressed my lack of presence became expected and therefore less significant to the function of my math class. The same goes for the usage of social networking sites. Posting a status or sending a tweet has become second nature to most- actually a routine: swip, scroll, RT, repeat. The action of tweeting and reading tweets has become so habitual that nothing has the ability to stick out as significant any longer. By juxtaposing the tweets "omg my bed is sooo comfy" and "mmm fruit #foodporn" to "RIP you were a great guy you'll never be forgotten," the content of each is equated to one another, putting them on the same level of importance because of their publication through the same medium. Although the specific tweet may be about a serious topic, its severity is diluted through a sea of a thousand other insignificant tweets.

If you disagree with my previous point, think about this: after you posted a RIP tweet or read a RIP tweet, did your day continue as it would normally? Maybe your phone rang a little more because of your tweet getting favorited or retweeted? If I'm right, then the actual act of posting this 'heartfelt tweet' didn't actually accomplish anything for the person its claiming to support, but rather it only endorsed the person who posted it and his/her own popularity. It becomes somewhat of a 'trending topic' as other students hop on the bandwagon, saying the exact same thing as the other 40 statuses in front of his/hers.

And the fact that talking about a personal death has become 'trendy' causes those participating to appear self-centered- doubtful that this was the intent, but it appears this way never the less. People say that they are doing it to support, but if one's sole intent is to let the family know that s/he cares and sympathizes with them, there are numerous other ways to go about it that do not feed the ego. Don't call me old fashioned because that's a cliché (come up with something better if we're in opposition) but calling, writing letters and actual personal contact do still exist. Instead of making the acknowledgment a personal experience, people feel obligated to publicize that they care instead of using whichever method would've helped him/her cope more effectively. If nothing besides the social network seems fit, then s/he should probably not be posting about it to begin with. It is done often to boost the publisher's self-image. However, this often compromises the publisher's morals- exactly what should be avoided when the goal is to show one's true self and one's naked emotions.

For the most part students did fall to social networking sites to give opinions and share sympathies, but many also suggested a more 'intimate' idea- a moment of silence at the pep assembly the day after. This idea was rejected because of the possible theory that if one student commits suicide and members of the school pay a significant amount of attention to it, it could drive a chain of suicides among students who feel starved for that same attention. The administration and other students obviously wanted to avoid that; however, doesn't acknowledging the topic for days on end on a social networking site have basically the same effect? Both are completely inappropriate platforms. After the subject has been acknowledged, people are free to continue their day as planned. Evidently, the new fad of posting about death on social networking sites could have the same possible spark of a "suicide chain" than would a moment of silence at the pep assembly. Probably more students use Facebook and Twitter than attended the homecoming pep assembly- some are just too cool for school but not too cool to read Twitter all day long. In both scenarios the issue is only acknowledged for a second- literally a moment- and then life goes on, as it did before. Both incite a sort of pseudo-attention that accomplishes exactly the opposite of the desired outcome: a change in the situation.

When a tragedy profound as a student death occurs in such a small community, it has an immense impact on everyone. This is exactly the reason why we were told in person, why counselors told us that they are available to talk if we need it, and why they didn't post in on the BHS Counseling Facebook Page. It is something that we all must cope with together- but actually together, not through our alter-online-social-networking-selves. The seriously personal feelings that we wish to convey over these websites simply do not work, the same way sarcasm doesn't travel well over a text. This tragedy and the details we were engulfed with at that moment in time will stay with us forever. Although a tweet or status may technically be permanent, its significance is not, as it just becomes tweet #5647 out of 11000+ tweets. The +5000 tweets I read that day, covering the same topic, will never hold any comparison to the blue sheet with black times new roman font Mr. Weingarden read to my AP Calculus class that morning.