


Spectator

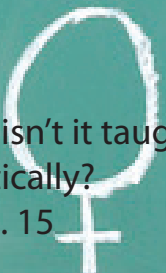
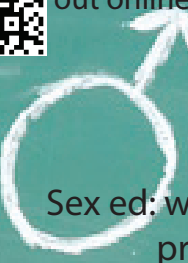
Volume LXVI • Issue 2

November 2013

Berkley High School
"Home of the Bears"



Missed our last issue? Check it out online!



Sex ed: why isn't it taught practically?
Pg. 15



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NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES

Monsieur Corington `14, Staff Medium and Madam Nicolette `14, Medium in Training

Aries: March 21 - April 19

This month will be an interesting one for you. Your most problematic character trait will be highlighted, causing major problems for you. Do not be surprised if you cause a few fights this month.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

This lunar cycle, no matter how positively you look at it, will be unpleasant. There is nothing you can do to stop what is coming, so just embrace it. Maybe the moons will align in a more fortunate way for you in the future.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You, unlike the Taurus, will have a fantastic 31 days. Make sure to make fun of the Taurus' as much as possible; it will improve your already fantastic horoscope.

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

This lunar calendar should lead you to be very superstitious. All superstitions, as dumb as they seem, will be in full effect. Steer clear of all cracks, salt shakers, and mirrors.

Leo: July 23 - August 23

You will have unfortunate luck with transportation this month. Whether it be a plane or a train, you should do your best to avoid all forms of transportation. Staying home for the entire month would be the smartest decision to make.

Virgo: August 24 - September 23

The future seems prosperous for you, so take advantage of it. Take any opportunity to grow as a person because this cycle of the moon is conducive for growth, unless you are an English teacher, then refer to Taurus' horoscope.

Libra: September 24 - October 22

This is the month of Thanksgiving. This is the month to appreciate what you have and stand up to those who bring you down. Do not be the turkey to be stuffed on the table. Be the carver, and carve your path.

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

The moons' alignment this month makes it evident that you are in for a roller coaster of emotions. If you buckle up the seat belt of life, you will be okay. Hopefully. Just don't text and drive.

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

People may anger you this month. You need to learn to keep composure and to not act impulsively. The moons know you will succeed, and if not, get up and try again. Or just continue to be angry. That sounds fun for everyone.

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

This is your month of epiphanies. Admit to your mistakes and fix them. Do not be defensive. Listen instead. People are not always trying to hurt you, and sometimes they want to help. Not the Aquarius though, look out for them.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

You are upset about something. Cry a bit and then move on. The moons advise you not to sit and sulk as that simply gets you nowhere. C'mon loser, go get 'em. Mascara tears and all.

Pisces February 19 - March 20

Recently, you have been lacking in motivation. You need to stop the laziness; you're a winner and get down to business. You are going to regret everything that has not been accomplished. Get to work, slacker.

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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 Lauren Boyd hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Lauren 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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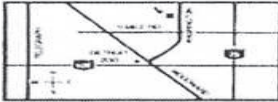


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TURKEY: NOT JUST FOR EATING

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

In Detroit, the most sacred Thanksgiving Day traditions are eating turkey and watching the Lions' game. However, the popular annual marathon called the Detroit Turkey Trot is on the rise to be the newest annual tradition. At 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 28, thousands of Michiganders will line up on Woodward near Congress Street to run the 10K race.

The Turkey Trot is vitally important to the Detroit community, and not just for the satisfaction of the athletes running in the race, but to aid the difficult situations of many people around the area. Two of the most important sponsors of the race include Gleaners Food Bank and The Special Olympics of Michigan. Both causes will display advertisements to help raise awareness for hunger and special needs. These advertisements make runners aware of their respective causes, and give Michiganders a reason to run in the race.

The first ever Turkey Trot was held on Thanksgiving back in 1983. On that day, around 2,300 participated. Over the years, the Turkey Trot has evolved into more of a spectacle more runners show up every year despite their level of training. Last year, an outstanding 21,000 runners showed up bright and early to participate in the big annual race.

In 2005, The Parade Company began to sponsor the Turkey Trot, giving the race the resources it needed to become a festive occasion. The Parade Company encouraged runners to dress up in costumes, which changed the intense race to a more fun, unique, and memorable event than it had been in years prior. "It gets pretty crazy. There were people in Santa outfits last year," sophomore Ian Annesser said, which made his first Turkey Trot very memorable.

For individuals who are looking forward to run the race this year, the times to beat are 29 minutes and 27 seconds for the men's race, 34 minutes and 15 seconds for the women's race and the winning time last year was 30 minutes and 37 seconds.

The Turkey Trot has etched its mark in Michigan history as one of the more important Detroit traditions on Thanksgiving along with the Lions' game and family gatherings. The race will continue to grow and improve in the future as it will continue to be a meaningful tradition to the citizens of Michigan.



Photo by Zoe Lask and edited by Shelby Silver

NEW DETROIT MAYOR ELECTED:

A HOPE FOR BRIGHTER DAYS ON THE HORIZON

Jenna McClure '16, Publicity Director

On Nov. 5, elections were held for Detroit's new mayor. The candidates were Mike Duggan and Benny Napoleon. Duggan is a former medical center chief who beat out Napoleon, a former sheriff for Wayne County.

Duggan's main goal is to bring Detroit out of the recession, which has detrimentally affected the city and thus the citizens themselves. Detroit faithful are hoping this could be the change needed.

With Detroit's debt at around \$14 billion, many citizens know that there needs to be a change to save the city. Duggan released his plan, called the Department of Neighborhoods, to enforce codes around the city, including Detroit's rural areas. The goal is to save abandoned homes rather than tear them down, and then sell to buyers who will improve and maintain them by creating incentives upon purchase. Duggan's platform and attitude makes it seem as though a new and brighter day is nearing on the Detroit river's horizon.

His platform included improving the housing market and the standard of living in Detroit. In terms of crime, he pledged to cut police response times. At this point, the response time is nearing an hour, with the national average at 11 minutes.

He has high hopes for citizens of Detroit believing he can make a difference.

COUNCIL OF TEENS AGAINST HUNGER MAKES AN IMPACT

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer and Cameron Cece '16, Staff Writer

The club Council of Teens Against Hunger (COTAH) is making a wave at Berkley High School. The club was created for many purposes, primarily bringing help to the less fortunate. This club allows students to take part in a variety of volunteer opportunities while focused on feeding the hungry in the Metro-Detroit area.

The club exclusively works with the organization Yad Ezra which opened its doors in 1990 with the purpose of feeding underprivileged Jewish families in Southeastern Michigan. This year, Yad Ezra is celebrating its 20 year anniversary. Each year, the organization distributes 12 million pounds of kosher food to hungry Jewish families, and this year, BHS students are taking an active role in the institution's services.

Senior Sundas Sohail, a leading member of the club, believes that it is a great opportunity for the BHS student body to partake in, not only for the humbling feeling it implores in people, but also for its academic benefits. Sohail said, "Everyone involved in the club can engage in the activities that the club offers through Yad Ezra. This will also allow them to acquire community service hours that will help them to earn a cord at graduation." With this

convenient and charitable opportunity at hand, it seems logical for those interested in earning both volunteer hours and a cord at graduation to take part in the opportunities that the club offers.

This year, the club's main goal is to recruit as many people as they can to get involved in the organization. "Next year, after the seniors who participated in the club this year are gone, we want there to be others who will take charge and make sure that the club and the work it does with Yad Ezra will carry on," Sohail said.

The club is open for anybody wanting to volunteer and who is interested in helping out those less fortunate. They meet every second Sunday of each month at Yad Ezra's facility located on 11 mile road off Robina Avenue.

Already, the club has received substantial press attention as it was recently featured in the October issue of the Oakland Press. Council of Teens Against Hunger seems to be positioning itself to make a momentous impact not only at BHS, but in the entire Southeastern Michigan region as well, and hopefully such successes will continue.

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CISPA's return to Congress: How will it fare a second time through?

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

The controversial cyber threat bill known as the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) is returning to Congress after two failed attempts to pass the bill.

CISPA is an amendment to the National Security Act of 1947, and is an attempt to bring the law up to date with the current issues of cybercrime. The bill is designed to enable private companies to voluntarily give information to the government to prevent a cyberattack they may detect. The government may do the same for private companies to warn them of an attack on their site.

The controversy originates from the vague wording of the bill, which allows any government intelligence agency to share any information they have with private companies. This information includes the private information of citizens. Proponents of the bill include Google, AT&T, Verizon, The United States Chamber of Commerce, and over eight hundred other private companies. They feel that such a bill would help them share information easily while still respecting the rights of users. Advocates argue that the sharing of information is entirely voluntary and will only pertain to cybercrime. They believe that the wording of the bill is precise enough to protect the rights of online users. Representative from Michigan's 8th district, Mike Rogers (R) is the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and an advocate of CISPA. "[The government] cannot demand any information from the private sector... information shared by the private sector must be protected

from disclosure and can only be used for cyber- or national-security purposes," Rogers said in a statement on usnews.com.

Opponents are Internet advocacy groups such as Reporters Without Borders, the American Civil Liberties

privacy law... companies could spy on the electronic communication of millions of Internet users and pass sensitive information to the government with no form of judicial oversight," Reitman said. Among the dissidents for the bill are citizens concerned for their privacy.

Sophomore Jacob Sines said "I do not believe it is right for the government to allow corporations access to our information. The more the government allows our privacy to be removed, the closer we become to a totalitarian government."

Many of the opponents of the bill refer to the data-mining practices of the National Security Agency (NSA) in their PRISM program, leaked by whistleblower Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee and NSA contractor, in May. PRISM has targeted the communications of citizens, including email and text, giving the government access to the private information of the masses. Dissidents fear that the information that the government has could easily be given to private companies for their own use, should CISPA be passed. Because of the issues, the bill is being re-written by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). The reworking may allow Congress to address the problems constituents have and may even provide an level ground that will protect citizens' online rights as well as assist in the sharing of vital information between the government and private companies.

"[The government] cannot demand any information from the private sector"
-Michigan Representative
Mike Rogers

Union as well as the Obama Administration. Rainey Reitman is the advocacy director for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit law firm focused on civil liberties in the Internet age. She is a strong opponent of CISPA, bringing up arguments about the vague wording of the bill. "CISPA is a bill with such dangerously vague language that it would undermine decades of bedrock

Second annual Military Appreciation Day a success

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

The second annual Military Appreciation Day took place on Nov. 8, just a few days prior to Veteran's Day. The Berkley social studies department hosted current members as well as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Originally, U.S. History teacher Mrs. Jennifer Simone had wanted to do something to honor military members for many years, but she just could not think of the best way to go about it. The social studies department had the idea to host a breakfast, to allow time for dialogue, and to hold an assembly for the students and military members.

This year, the social studies department added a few more members of all ages, ranks, and branches of the military, gaining a more diverse group than last year's celebration. Some members that made appearances at the event were even BHS alumni. "We had three or four show up at the event, they got to say hello to their old teachers too," U.S. History teacher Mrs. Angela Church said.

The hope is that, by bringing in actual history and history in the making, students



Berkley High students talk to veterans about their experience in the United States Military.

would better understand the different wars the U.S. participated in and the effects of them as well. "I learned that war does not just change the situation that we are fighting over, but many people's lives and families," freshman Casey Halas said. But the event was not all about war, many of the military members were highly interested in BHS student life. Some veterans asked what students wanted to be when they grew up, what they liked, hobbies, and much more.

All in all, BHS's second annual Military Appreciation Day was a huge success. "This day is absolutely fantastic. The military members really enjoy it; I'm so glad that the U.S. history teachers decided to organize this event," Berkley community member Pat Vick said. Hopefully, next year's celebration will be just as engaging and informative as this year's, if not more so.

Photo by Zoe Lask

The stereotypical Thanksgiving dinner table

Corey Lipton '16, News Editor

The Jewish one:

Since Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving this year, there will be at least one Jewish relative decked out in a Kippah and all. They will unsuccessfully try to relate any occurrence to the story of the Maccabee's surprising defeat of the Greeks, and the oil that burned for eight straight days.

Imagine an average Thanksgiving table. What do you see? A long and crowded table, lots of Turkey, stuffing, and other festive foods, but focus on the people. What sort of people are at Thanksgiving? Every table is different, but the personalities that are seen are the same. The usual attendees of an average Thanksgiving are:

The perfectionist grandma:

She will spend the entire dinner complaining. Either the tablecloth does not match the drapes, or the turkey just "tastes a little funny." She will look to complain about anything that deals with her daughter-in-law, which usually will result in a post-dinner fight between one's mom and dad.

The storytelling grandpa:

Everything is a story with him. He will talk for hours and hours without realizing it. If you ask him to pass the gravy, he will reply with an hour long story about how different Thanksgiving dinner was when he was a kid, without giving you the gravy.

The aunt who is too touchy:

As soon as she walks through the front door, she will find you and give you a big hug, then squeeze your cheeks and hands with her sharp, metal jewelry, practically cutting off circulation. She will be amazed at how tall you have gotten, even if the last time you saw her was last week. Throughout the night, she will relentlessly pester you about your supposed girlfriend/boyfriend, thus making you very uncomfortable.

The kid's table members:

Off to the side with their plastic chairs and paper plates, they will talk the whole time without being a bother to the adults, innocently enjoying their dinners. They are all on their best behavior, mostly because of the threat they received from their mothers before dinner began.

Papa's Pizza: Here to stay

Josh Radom '16, Student Life Editor

With the start of the new school year, many aspects of the BHS community have changed along with the lunching options. The less than favorable JJfatts has closed down, and a new and much improved Papa's Pizza has opened its doors on the corner of Coolidge Highway and Catalpa Road.

Papa's Pizza has earned the good reputation from BHS students that JJfatts failed to create. "I mean, JJfatts didn't let students eat in and Papa's Pizza does. No kid wants to just buy their food and be forced to leave," sophomore Gabrielle Blatz said. Papa's Pizza seems to have a better understanding of what their customer base consists of and how to cater to their desires. Papa's Pizza manager, Tony Talia, said, "I went to Berkley and remember what it's like to want to go out for lunch, so I think that's one of the main reasons why I decided to let the kids eat in."

Another perk of Papa's Pizza is improvement of their quality of food compared to JJfatts. From delicious and affordable pizza, to a different variety of subs, barbeque meat, and chicken fingers,

Papa's Pizza has it all. Senior Sabrina Fregolle said "It's even fantastic when it's cold: that's when you know it's really

good." "It's quality pizza for a great price," sophomore Zach Hobson said. Papa's Pizza clearly knows what they are doing when it comes to the actual product they are selling.

Obviously, going from a place of business that was once resented by the BHS student body to a well known and loved restaurant, there was an evident transition in consumer traffic. Talia said, "It has actually been a great transition, the BHS students are a cool group of kids." In past years, students were said to have been disrespectful and rude to the employees at JJfatts, but Talia said, "I'm cool with the kids, so the kids are cool and respectful with me." This philosophy creates a friendly environment for students during their lunch. If the atmosphere of Papa's Pizza continues to offer students a nice place to eat, along with good food, it should have a very successful future within the Berkley community.



The one and only Papa's Pizza, where kids flock to eat delicious food every lunch.

Photo by Zoe Lask

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AUSTRALIAN WILDMAN OUT OF THE BUSH

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor and Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

The natural world is full of many creatures, big and small. We turn to nature television shows to bring us closer to the untamed wilds where we originated. Recently, from the Australian outback, a new face in the world of nature documentaries has emerged. His name is Andrew Ucles, and if it runs, climbs, flies, jumps, slithers, crawls, or squats in the mud, he will catch it with his bare hands. Ucles' mastery of capturing animals without any tools is what differentiates him from other wildmen out there. To demonstrate his excellence and technique, Ucles caught

an eagle using only a dead kangaroo for help. Ucles cleverly disguised himself under the dead kangaroo and when the eagle landed to feast on the dead mammal, Ucles snatched it. However, entertainment is not the only reason behind Ucles' videos. He wishes to help modern society recognize that coexistence with nature supports the Earth's vitality. Ucles firmly believes that, "We are all born wild; it is a choice to be tame." To better understand the wonder of nature that is Andrew Ucles, we conducted the following interview.

How did your parents react to your choice of lifestyle?

AU: My parents did not see my vision unfortunately; my father, being a risk assessment project manager, meant his sole duty and responsibility was to prevent risk and dangerous situations occurring. I, on the other hand, went looking for danger and often became injured in my risk-taking behaviors. It was always a constant argument about my future career ideals.

What do you do in preparation for your videos? Research? Trial and Error?

AU: Before attempting to capture an animal, I have usually caught these animals before thus knowing how they're going to behave on camera and what techniques will work before attempting to film. Research is always secondary and generally overlays as voice overs in the videos; observations, however, are captured in real time. What I see is what the audience gets.

What was the most difficult animal for you to catch?

AU: The most difficult animal to catch was the Southern Crested Porcupine found in Eastern Africa. I have never been so injured by an animal in attempting to restrain it, and I was left with several deep punctures and quills having to be removed from my lower and upper body.

Who is your greatest role model and why do you admire them?

AU: My greatest role model is Michael Jackson. He believed that he could change the world if he followed his dreams. He has inspired millions of people and revolutionized music and dance. I, too, hold the same vision and would like to revolutionize the documentary industry one day.

What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?

AU: Favorite MJ song: "Billie Jean" ;)

What was your most terrifying experience in the wild?

AU: My most terrifying experience- this would probably have been when I was bitten by a venomous snake at the age of 14 and had to walk several kilometers to get help. I didn't think I was going to make it back alive.

Ucles has revolutionized the wildlife experience for his viewers. With his creative approach to the documentary style, and his vast knowledge and experience in the wilderness, Ucles creates unique and entertaining videos, bringing us closer to nature than we may ever have

What was the first animal you ever caught?

AU: Golden Water kink (small garden variety lizard).

Have you ever considered traveling into the wilds of North America?

AU: I have recently considered coming to North America. I have a production company that would like to send me to LA early next year, so I'm considering staying a couple of months in and around different states. I would love to try and wrangle beavers, raccoons, opossums, black bears, and a moose.

What is one animal you really want to catch but haven't yet had the chance to?

AU: The animal I've always wanted to catch would be the Honey Badger, the most fearless animal on earth. Whilst in Africa, I searched relentlessly to find one but unfortunately for both of us we didn't meet.

What are your future goals? With your videos? With your life?

AU: My future goal is to have my own TV show on a large international cable network (Discovery, Nat Geo, Animal Planet), I have been able to teach millions of people around the world about interacting, engaging and wrangling some of the most dangerous animals on the planet. I'll continue to upload videos on my Youtube channel; there are 40 videos at present, [and] my goal is to have an archive of 100 videos in total by the end of next year.

What was your favorite moment out in the wild? Why?

AU: My best memory in the wild has not been a capture, [but] rather, it was a face to face experience with a pride of lions in Central Eastern Africa. Being in a situation where you have lost all your control over your surroundings and are totally in the mercy of a pride of animals is truly an experience which questions your motives and goals in life. Simply, the experience taught me that connecting with an animal is by far the greatest gift a human being can have; two worlds combining in a pure instinctive way.

experienced before. As soon as you can, be sure to check out his website, Andrewucles.com and prepare yourself to be amazed.



Ucles explains how he is going to catch a kangaroo using a dead emu.



Ucles shows how to approach hippos in Africa.



Ucles wrestles with a fox that stole his hat.

Fashion still a must in winter

Will Shulak '16, Staff Writer

Get ready to strap on your mittens for November, the last month before Michigan's bitter winter comes and reduces everyone to wearing boring old parkas and plaid boots, ugh! The *Spectator's* own style correspondent, William Shulak, has compiled a list of tasty tidbits for all those thirsty for fashion advice.

1. Neck Wear

Keeping warm most definitely does not mean that style needs to be sacrificed. Scarves can balance out a dry old jacket or just act as a bold statement piece. Many female students think the accessory is a largely female phenomenon. Well newsflash fellas, you can wear scarves too. Just like skinny jeans, women usually wear scarves, but the right man can make it work. Females find these select men to be risk takers. Senior Shannon Smith even said that she "commends" those brave souls for their ability to pull off a scarf. Sophomore Caleb Matthews demonstrates the passion that it takes for a man to model a scarf. Matthews dons the scarf to "pull together" his outfits in a way that catches the eye but goes on to inspire others. Matthews isn't alone because junior Jacob Coutu has been spotted sporting the scarf as well and has been recognized for his 'swag'. "I wish that more men would wear scarves," senior Emily Bailey said, who is known to wear scarves herself. Just like Smith, she sees that the opportunity for a man to wear a scarf has appeared and that it should be taken with pride. One should also note that a scarf has the ability to attract those of the opposite sex.



Caleb Matthews models neck wear with pizzaz

Photos by Zoe Lask

2. Leggings

This garment is the reason why most male students come to school. Popular brands of this craveable item include Lululemon, Hard Tail, and Aritzia. Females like how comfortable the pants feel, while males comment that they are a visual feast. The only complaint about leggings is that some find them to divert males from their schoolwork. "Sometimes when I'm in the hall reading or doing work, I'll see someone with them [yoga pants/leggings] on, and it makes it hard to work," junior Danny Nebergall said. Nebergall has been known to enjoy spotting leggings even though they can distract him. Fashion is also a big part of leggings because they can fit easily into that super cute pair of boots that you saw in the mall. In addition, they are simple and much more comfortable than tights. Leggings and yoga pants have become a strictly female phenomenon, and should not be tried by men under any circumstance.



Lauren Boyd models the famous Lulu's (not hidden pic)

It does not matter what one wears, but how they pull it off. A paper bag could serve you well, if some pizzazz is added. Be yourself and have fun.

Note: The Spectator is not responsible for any fashion related injuries.

3. The pre-winter jacket

Even though contradictory to previous statements, jackets can be fashionable. These stylish jackets are not the heavy parkas that are commonly worn throughout the brutal winter season, and just like the scarf, the jacket can be used to spice up an outfit. Explaining why she chooses jackets, sophomore Brianna Luecke said, "Sometimes because it [a jacket] is comfortable and sometimes it depends on how it looks [with the rest of her outfit]." Like the scarf, the jacket is an art form that needs to be respected. One must carefully match the jacket with the top in order to not ruin an ensemble. Common fall jackets include the trench coat, pea coat, military coat, topcoat, leather jacket, and the overcoat. Women prominently show off these coats, but the leather jacket and trench coat tend to be somewhat gender neutral. Men, who want an exclusively masculine look, should turn to the suit jacket for a more of a business casual look.

New counselor arrives, eager to help

Bennet Hart '16, Sports Editor

BHS's new guidance counselor has been loved by Norup students, past and present, ever since she started working at the middle school eight years ago.

Beginning this year, Robyn Weiss is replacing Catherine Helms as the E-K guidance counselor at BHS. Although the transition from middle school to high school can be very difficult for students, it has not rattled Weiss as a counselor in the slightest. Weiss said, "Many of the things I do at the high school are the same that I did at Norup." She said this mostly includes "talking with students about how to solve problems with their academics or their friends." Another thing that has made the transition easy for Weiss is the welcoming environment of BHS. Weiss does admit, "Change is always challenging," but she seems to be catching on just fine.

How you ask? Last spring when Weiss found out she would be moving to BHS she got right to work. She came over to the high school and talked to the current BHS counselors.

Weiss also attended the six week graduate class called Counseling and the College Selection Process. There she learned important counselor-related information like how to help students with the process of picking the right college for their interests. Weiss describes helping students with college decisions as the one thing she is most excited about doing that she did not get to do at Norup.

Unfortunately, during this process Weiss does not think she will be able to visit with all 350 seniors about their individual college situations, it would not be possible. She plans on visiting classrooms during the school day and holding student and parent workshops in order to help as many students as possible. Doing this should help her achieve her ultimate goal of being the best counselor she can be on behalf of all of her students. BHS welcomes Weiss to the counseling department.

Black-and-Blue Friday

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

Let's cut to the chase. Nobody should go shopping on the infamous and daunting Black Friday. Since the 1960s, Black Friday has been a time when shoppers work themselves into a frenzy over deals that are not even the best of the season. Across the nation, customers flood into mall outlets in order to race to each store and compete against the frantic buyers weaving their way through torn down clothes racks, seas of hangers, and endless lines of customers.

Nevertheless, a few brave Berkley High School souls have embarked on the wild adventures on Black Friday and are courageous enough to share what they have encountered while undergoing this unforgettable event.

"I went Black Friday shopping at Northville last year. I was not there for long because I saw a fight break out, somebody pulled a gun and then they had to evacuate the mall."

Going in for the kill I see. Interesting tactic.

"I was at Somerset last year on Black Friday and there were some laptops on sale, and some lady grabbed another lady's hair and knocked her down. Then she took the laptop and they started fighting on the ground."

All is fair in love and war, especially over the love of a laptop.

"Once upon a time, there was a holiday called Black Friday. I was shopping when I saw a crowd of people stampeding towards me. They were going to the same store I was headed to, so I ran with them so I wouldn't get trampled. When I tried to enter the store, I was pushed away because it was being evacuated. I found out later that some random woman started pepper spraying other people. Long story short--I didn't get the shoes that day."

So, no happily ever after?



**Freshman
Floyd Hudson**



**Sophomore
Joe Hakim**



**Junior Jacob "Hershey"
Herskovitz**

Point blank, survival of the fittest rules apply when going Black Friday shopping. On that awaited Friday, be prepared to fight off those who thirst for the item you most desire and have some ice ready for those fatigued muscles. May the odds be ever in your favor, good luck, and happy shopping games.

New food cart: convenient gas station alternative

Bennet Hart '16,
Sports Editor

A brand new option for students in a hurry has finally arrived at BHS. "Breakfast and lunch on a cart" is an innovative new system that will serve as an excellent alternative to students who visit the BP on the corner of Catalpa and Coolidge daily. This program sells snacks, drinks, sandwiches, and hot, grab and go items like Bosco Sticks. On the cart there is a wireless computer system where students can pay off their accounts like in the normal lunch line.

The people in charge of hot lunch are some of the most undervalued staff members at Berkley. They are often working hard with very little pay and benefits. Lavon Larson is the food and service director for the Berkley School District. She has a very busy day, and is in charge of the daily serving of breakfast and lunch at all of the Berkley School District schools and programs. Larson must follow "all federal and state guidelines for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, including: menuing, processing meal applications, and conducting or assisting the business office in all state and federal reporting, audit reviews and assessments." She is also in charge of all the obvious responsibilities such as personnel hiring, training, and supervising as well as menuing and budgeting.

Larson and the five food workers that work solely here at BHS have implemented the new option for students in a hurry. Larson said, "The cart [is by the] student service center," and will be open every day before school from 7:00am to 7:30am in addition to lunch time.

Students have very different opinions on the new lunch service. Junior Amadi Browning said that although "[he doesn't] eat [hot lunch now]," he said that he would likely use the cart. On the other hand, when asked if he would like the meals on a cart service junior Aaron Dufour thinks differently. "I probably won't [eat food from the cart]; I'm pretty neutral," he said.

Previously, the lunch service sells about 150 meals a day. Larson and her staff want to increase that number with this new system.

In addition to an increase in sales, Larson also hopes that the convenience will make students happy and appreciate the work that the cafeteria employees do. The lunch cart is already open as of Nov. 18 and the breakfast cart should be ready after Thanksgiving.

Drew Leshman '17,
Co-Circulation Manager

In the 17th century, there lived a determined group of Englishmen, trying to find a new way of life. Since their incredible achievements they earned the name the Pilgrims. Legend has it that millenniums before those Pilgrims came an excited, interesting group of Jewish warriors called the mighty Maccabees.

The Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving with indigenous Native Americans in the new world, also known as America. When the Maccabees were struggling in the holy land, they found a way to overcome the Babylonians, and that led to the creation of the Jewish holiday, Chanukah. This year, for the first time ever, the Pilgrims and the Maccabees will battle it out on Nov. 28, as Thanksgiving and the second night of Chanukah fall on the same day, to discover which group will reign supreme.

Thanksgiving always occurs on the last Thursday of November, but Chanukah, on the other hand, usually does not begin until December. People, mainly those who are Jewish have differing opinions regarding these holidays being celebrated on the same day. Of course, the Jewish people, being as "chosen" as they are, would like to have their own day to celebrate the lighting of the second Chanukah candle. They would hate to be disturbed by the turkey and stuffing of Thanksgiving. It will be a battle between the ancestors, and an even bigger battle between the dinner menus and family traditions like running in turkey trots or saying prayers.

The biggest problem of these two holidays being celebrated on the same day could be the decision between Latkes or Turkey. It is possibly one of the hardest questions the Jewish people will ever have to ask themselves. It will be a real toss up for those Jewish families out there, but a no-brainer for those die-hard Thanksgiving lovers. Some people will find it absolutely unacceptable for the night to be shared, and others will man up and deal with it.

As Nov. 28 approaches, the somewhat conflicting date is only causing more Jewish mothers stress about cooking, gifts, and guests. Will it be the traditional turkey and stuffing kind of night as usual, or will it be the nicely dressed, latkes and applesauce kind of night? It is each family's choice that will go down in the record books as one of the biggest decision in the Jewish people's history.

The hairy details

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

While some may close the fall season with bundling up in cashmere sweaters, wool scarves, and heavy coats, the majority of the male population at Berkley High School decides to grow out their facial hair for warmth and also, more importantly, for a good cause. Every year, the school's halls are filled with scruffy chins, thick side burns, and patchy mustaches being sported by students, teachers, and administrators alike.

It is November: the month men grow out their facial hair as they raise awareness for prostate cancer. The movement began in 2003, inspired by breast cancer awareness efforts, and has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, sprouting 'staches across all seven continents and even raising \$42 million last year.

Throughout November, male teachers will collect tickets in buckets which represent votes, in order to emerge victorious in the competition of having the best beard, mustache, or any other combination of facial hair here at BHS. Some famous beard/facial hair winners from previous years include Rick Blanchard and Mr. Randall Gawel. However, staff members should beware of losing the competition due to the recent addition of students joining for the title of best beard this year. Each student can purchase three tickets for \$1, and each ticket represents one vote. "I'm sort of participating, I'm not competing but I'm keeping to tradition and not shaving for November," junior Bryce Karafa said. "I'm going to grow out my beard all month and I'm going to keep growing it out after No Shave November is over. I think my beard makes me look older."

So remember men, step away from the razor and shaving cream, and make sure you vote for your favorite stubble chinned teacher, administrator, or classmate.



"I found out I'm a lot older with all my gray hair." -Beebe



"I'm all here trying to compete." -Silverstein



"The maintenance is hard." -Agbay



"It's been itchy and bit uncomfortable." -Gawel

Battle of the holidays

THE NEXT GENERATION OF GAMES

PLAY STATION 4

Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer

The long running gaming system rivalry continues with the recent release of the PlayStation 4, which came out on Nov.15, and Xbox One, coming out on Nov.22. The PS4, coming into stores with higher overall ratings than the Xbox, is predicted to sell much better.

“The PS4 will be a step up from the original PS4 console that Sony instituted in the last generation, and it will be a refreshing start for Sony and PlayStation fans,” freshman Dylan Milton said. Although the system lacks general reliability when it comes to its online services and updates, the PS4’s \$399 price, which is \$100 cheaper than the Xbox One, is eye candy to many customers.

The PS4 is coming out with many exciting new features including the ability to stream games through Ustream which is an HD streaming video site, Cross-play with PlayStation Vita, a handheld Sony PlayStation device and a mobile app that will tie in with PS accounts. The mobile app allows the user to have second-screen support for PS4 titles that allow it and no restrictions on playing used games.

On the other hand, there are also disadvantages concerning this system. For example, in order to use multiplayer, one will have to pay for PS Plus which will cost \$49.99 for a one year membership unlike the past PlayStation’s where this feature had been free. Paying for PS Plus will give purchasers free games, however, most people will probably not like to pay to use the multiplayer.

One major con of the PS4 is the inability to use PS3 or past PlayStation system games. This is known as backwards compatibility. The Xbox One also prohibits this, but this disadvantage is new for the PlayStation.

With that being said, all good things do come with a shadow, and in the end, Sony’s new PlayStation is highly reviewed and is expected to do extremely well in the video game markets.

In fact, many gamers who have previously chosen the Xbox systems over PlayStation’s are planning to switch over while Sony loyalists are satisfied with the next generation platform.

PROS

- CHEAPER THAN THE COMPETITION
- BLUE RAY COMPATIBILITY
- 500 GB HARD DRIVE
- NEW CONTROLLER

CONS

- NO BACKWARDS COMPATIBILITY
- POOR FIRST DAY GAME SELECTION

XBOX ONE

Drew Leshman '17, Co-Circulation Manager

Welcome to the future. Welcome to the Xbox One. Xbox gaming systems have evolved from the Xbox 360, introduced back in 2001, and now to the newly arriving on Nov. 22 Xbox One. This new system is simply the “all-in-one” Xbox that gamers have forever been waiting for.

The Xbox One has some definite improvements from previous models. All the way from its multitasking ability, to its idea of monitoring the gamer’s moves while they play their favorite games, the Xbox One simply has it all. This new game system will be much faster during gameplay, and switching between tasks like TV, movies, or Skype will be a much easier task. The new controller that comes along with this new gaming system is also supposed to be an improvement from the original controllers. This new wireless controller has new fingertip vibration feedback and has redesigned thumbsticks. With its 40 innovations, it’s intended to be the best controller Xbox has made.

Along with the great features of the new Xbox One come its faults. The issue consumers have is the high price of \$499. When compared to the new PS4 at \$399, there is a rather large monetary difference. Sophomore Andrew Belcher said, “I think the pricing is just a little too high.”

However, the pricing is not the only issue regarding this new creation. Xbox Kinect, which is meant to be an interesting device due to its accurate motion tracking ability, angers many gamers with the new Xbox. Microsoft is requiring that everyone who purchases an Xbox must also buy the Kinect, which aggravates an overwhelming amount of consumers. “They’re including the Kinect, which nobody wants,” Belcher said. These cons of the Xbox One are intended to be noticeable when playing the new gaming system.

Knowing the advantages and disadvantages of this all-inclusive Xbox One allows prospective consumers to shop more intelligently than normal when looking to purchase it when it comes out Nov. 22.

It will be a hard decision for gamers to decide which gaming system is the better one after they both are released, it could be the PS4 or the Xbox One.

PROS

- 8 GB OF RAM
- 500 GB HARD DRIVE
- MULTI-TASKING BETWEEN GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT APPS
- NEW CONTROLLER

CONS

- NO BACKWARDS COMPATIBILITY
- PRICE IS HIGHER THAN THE COMPETITION

RAPPER'S ANTICS OVER MUSIC MAKE HEADLINES

Josh Radom '16, Student Life Editor

It did not take long after Kanye West's career began in 2001 for the American public to see the true Kanye. The increase following that Kanye has gained has caused him to view himself as almost a God-like figure. For some stars, this can be a good thing helping them to invoke change, but in his case it has caused him to make decisions based upon his own personal agenda that are unnecessary and controversial grasping the attention of the public eye.

His first, and probably most famous, act of honesty occurred in 2006 during a concert for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. When it was Kanye's turn to speak about the hurricane, he went off script and blatantly said, "George Bush doesn't care about black people." His impromptu claim spiraled out into a racial and political controversy, and he ended up apologizing, saying that "in a situation of high emotion... we don't always choose the right words." Junior Rashaun Little said, "I think Kanye, as a black man, was just speaking the truth, and I back him on saying that." But the honesty does not end there.

Three years later, Kanye's honesty got the best of him once again. After the winner of the Music Video of the Year Award was given to Taylor Swift at the VMA's, he got up on stage, stole the microphone from Swift and said, "Beyonce had one of the best music videos ever," and wobbled off stage, presumably intoxicated. This, as one could imagine, did not go over well with the American public. The news surrounding his actions was so terrible that his career almost imploded, and he left the country for an entire year. Senior Rana Gulli agrees with most of the Swift fans and she said, "I think Kanye West is a jerk for what he did to Taylor Swift. She worked really hard, and I did not think it was funny at all."



Kanye's infamous interaction with Taylor Swift.

Finally, his most recent outburst was directed toward Jimmy Kimmel over Twitter, in response to a skit performed on Kimmel's show that portrayed Kanye in a negative light. His tweets read, "Jimmy Kimmel is out of line in any way spoof the only honest piece of media in years," and, "Jimmy Kimmel I don't take this as a joke, you don't have scum bags jumping over fences trying to take pictures of your daughter," and even, "You cannot put yourself in my shoes your face looks crazy... is that a joke? Or if I had a kid say it would it be funny?" referring to the spoof that Jimmy Kimmel created mocking the arrogance of Kanye during a BBC interview. Sophomore Charlotte Marchese said, "I thought it was fake; it was so funny, but he kind of over reacted a lot." This opinion goes into accordance with the thoughts of many Americans after seeing the shocking yet hilarious tweets. In the end, Kanye and Kimmel made peace and ended the social media horror.

From hurricane relief concerts to the twittersphere, Kanye has yet to relieve the American people from watching his every move as they cannot help but watch what he will do next. If Kanye continues to view himself as being someone who can do and say whatever he wants whenever he sees fit, and if the American pop culture followers let him do this, he and others like him will never learn that they are equals to everyone else. The possibilities for Kanye's actions are endless with millions of dollars, a soon to be Kardashian wife, and a kid named after a direction, who knows what is next.



Photos courtesy of © Gear Live Media, LLC. 2007

THE WIZ EASES ON DOWN TO BERKLEY

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! This coming January, the Berkley High School's drama department will enter the world of Motown as they takes on the famed classic musical, *The Wiz*, under the direction of John Hopkins. BHS has never seen anything like this before and the community is in for a big surprise. With newcomer senior Shannon Smith playing Evilline, the Wicked Witch of the West, and senior Emily Bailey playing the beloved Dorothy, BHS is in for a great show.

Like the original story of *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy travels to the land of Oz by tornado. By seeing and befriending new and unique characters such as a Motown singing Scarecrow, a tap-dancing Tinman, and curious Lion, Dorothy finds her way back home after defeating the evil Evilline. Unlike the original *The Wizard of Oz*, this rendition features soul music, new characters like Addepearle, the Good Witch of the North, played by junior Hannah Fahoome, and jokes all around.

Some things to look forward to are the creative costumes being made by sophomores Jessi McAlpine, Ryan Hurley, and Caleb Matthews. "I've been working really hard on these costumes and I'm so excited to have all of the actors show them off during the play," McAlpine said. As well as the costumes, future viewers can expect new and exciting choreography during the tornado scene by BHS alumni, Taylor Tucker, and more inventive and advanced set pieces. Bailey said, "I'm so excited to end my high school drama career with *The Wiz*. Being Dorothy is an unbelievable role and I can't wait for everyone to see what everyone in the drama department has been working so hard to accomplish. Just like J-Hops says, "we have set the bar high and are ready to tackle the challenge."

The excitement is just starting as the drama department awaits opening day on Jan.16. Ease on down the road to the BHS auditorium in January and witness a musical to remember.



Photo by Jake Kreinbring

Senior Emily Bailey and junior Hanna Fahoome rehearse a number for the show on Nov. 14.

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DANGEROUS WATERS

NEW MOVIE DEPICTS PIRATE LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS

Ty Eldridge '14, Assistant Photo Editor

If you ever wanted to experience what it would be like to be held hostage by a group of desperate and dangerous high-seas bandits as they use automatic weapons carelessly, then "*Captain Phillips*" is probably as close as you will ever get. Tom Hanks gives the performance of a lifetime in director Paul Greengrass', *Captain Phillips*, which is based on a true story. Tom Hanks is already a likeable actor and captures the role of *Captain Phillips* as he works as our 'beacon of humanity'. His performance is nail-biting and gut-wrenching, keeping the viewer on the edge of your seat.

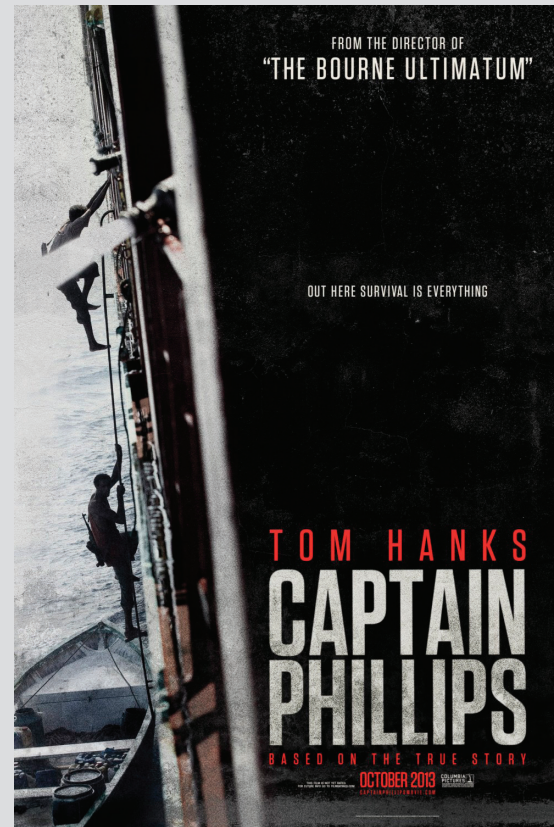
Captain Phillips allows the viewer to see a clash of two worlds: the Western world and its riches and power, and Somalia using their only sense of hope, pirating. Smart, powerful and intense, *Captain Phillips* gives you the experience of being held hostage by a group of desperate and dangerous high-seas bandits. "It was suspenseful because you didn't know what was going to happen next. You never knew what was going to happen!" junior Kiara Garland said.

One of the pirates, Muse, is played by up and coming actor, Barkhad Abdi, who has a face that haunts the movie with his skeleton structure and dark eyes. Abdi's lines and use of facial expressions, sends chills down the audience's

spine. Watching, Muse is the enemy, but yet Barkhad Abdi's performance causes one to ask is he really portraying the enemy or is the modern world the true enemy?

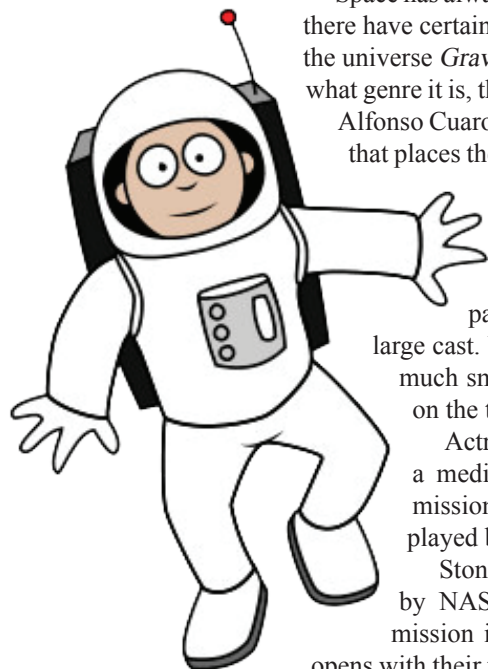
In the film it is Captain Richard Phillips' heroic journey has to keep his own fears hidden and remain strong for his family and crew. Hanks is locked into his role and keeps the audience engaged at every turn. *Captain Phillips* becomes a life-or-death game that keeps the viewer thinking: who will make the next move throughout the movie? The second half of the movie, the movie's suspense starts to kick up a notch. The first half of the movie is so full of strategies and tension. The stress increases and the audience's eyes remain wide as plans begin to unfold.

Paul Greengrass' suspenseful thriller based on a shattering incident from April 2009 gives global context and terrorism. "I know it's based on a true story and it looks like something that hasn't been produced before as a movie, so it just looks interesting to see what happens," junior Jake Cummings said. *Captain Phillips* is a heart pounding classic filled with action and drama. This movie leaves the audience off balance, it is a must see.



GRAVITATING TO THE THEATRE

Zoe Lask '16, Photo Editor



Space has always found a home in Science Fiction movies and there have certainly been a lot of movies about the mysteries of the universe *Gravity* is really a straight up drama. Regardless of what genre it is, there has never been a movie like it. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity* is a heart-pounding, riveting thriller that places the audience into the mysterious and unforgiving

realm of outer space. The directors previous work includes the film *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. *Gravity* is a huge step out of Cuarón's comfort zone of movies; his past movies are large extravagant movies with a large cast. Whereas *Gravity*, while still extravagant has a much smaller cast and the focus of the movie is more on the two main characters.

Actress Sandra Bullock plays Dr. Ryan Stone, a medical engineer who is out on her first shuttle mission along with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalski, played by George Clooney.

Stone and Kowalski and a third crewmen are sent by NASA to the International Space Station. Their mission is to fix the Hubble telescope, and the movie opens with their team on a spacewalk working on the telescope. The American team is not the only one up in space; the Russians

have their own team up in there. Unfortunately they accidentally destroy one of their own satellites causing the debris from the satellite to fly towards the telescope Stone and Kowalski are working on. What was a routine mission for Stone and Kowalski turns into a battle for their lives.

The film is rated PG-13 for some intense scenes and language, but these cinematically stunning graphics help to depict outer space like never before. The graphics and acting are so realistic it makes the audience feel like they are actually in space. This is particularly true of the 3-D. Bullock gives a definite Oscar worthy performance as the movie's leading actress supported by Clooney's calm demeanor throughout a rather chaotic movie. *Gravity* is strongly recommended to those who enjoy a heart-stopping spectacle.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons License for Promotional Use

SEXUAL EDUCATION: OUT OF SCHOOL, INTO REALITY

Ty Eldridge '14, Assistant Photo Editor

After all the years of sexual education being taught in school, one would think that students would find the course to be more effective, and sexual education would be considered truly useful. Despite all of the consistency of sexual education being taught in schools to some degree or another, the rate of pregnancy in high school aged teens 15-19, according to the Center for Disease Control, is 31.3 per 1,000 women. This real issue of high school is hidden behind school functions, studying, and parties. Some may argue that the sexual education system is broken, and that the abstinence-based curriculum does not reflect the reality for many students.

It is true that sexual education is a risky topic to discuss, and yet sex ed is a course many students are required to take in order to graduate high school. "We call it reproductive health; it instructs students about the reproductive system, and conditions and diseases that can affect their reproductive organs and some tools to make good decisions about their reproductive decisions," health teacher Ms. Kathleen Hearne said. One of the main topics that is taught in the course is abstinence. The course here at Berkley High School does not go into depth as far as teaching students about the actions of sex. The course teaches about the birth cycle and about how a child grows in a female's body, and an abstinence curriculum is promoted before teaching anything else.

The sex ed system is in a rough spot here at BHS. It seems that the course in general is becoming less effective. It could be the state or the district-mandated curriculum of the course itself. "It's not really sex education. It talks about everything health-wise, but it doesn't really go into sex," senior Autumn Breck said. To get a sense of where BHS students stand on the hotly contested topic, students participated in a sex ed survey. Students were asked questions about the course being effective and if what they learned benefited them. After surveying 100 students, it is debatable whether the specific course is working. In the conducted survey about Berkley High School's reproductive health class, 85 percent of the surveyed students said the sex ed aspect of the course was not helpful.

"Teaching sexual reproductive health as a way to prevent sexual acts from occurring, could be the factor making sex-ed less effective"

One student survey said, "Teachers are so oblivious to things. They should teach it more in a realistic style. They always preach how [sex] is bad." Although BHS teachers are mandated to teach this by the district, students also play a part in the course's effectiveness. Another student said in the sex ed survey, "I think they should teach how to use condoms and not just preach abstinence." Students have other questions regarding sex ed, yet they are continuously taught "abstinence."



Photo courtesy of USA Today

Integrating the teaching of different methods to prevent pregnancy could essentially cause the course to become more effective. Many sexually active high school females in the country are not on a birth control method which is also a factor in pregnancy rates. The "what if" method could also be integrated into the curriculum allowing students to learn various birth control methods if they did decide to engage in sexual activity. The reproductive health course could begin teaching methods of contraceptives after teaching abstinence, incorporating information that can decrease pregnancy rates. "We are lucky in Berkley that Berkley is an abstinence plus district. So first we teach abstinence, then we can say 'but if you do decide...' but then I don't really have curriculum to support that," Hearne said. Having curriculum also based on if students may decide to engage in sexual activity would decrease the pregnancy risks and rates.

Sexual education is used as a tool to keep students from engaging in sexual activity, but this tool is seemingly failing

based on statistics. "Sexual education is needed so students can learn about it, but it's not needed to try and prevent [sex] because that's not going to happen," senior Ashauna

"The abstinence based curriculum does not reflect reality for many students"

Lovelace said. Teaching sexual reproductive health in a way to "prevent" sexual acts from occurring could be a factor of sex ed being less effective. "I think students will do whatever they want regardless of the consequences of being sexually active," Breck said. More information needs to be provided so students can make more informed decisions. Hearne said, "I guess that's my thing in health—in general, giving you the information you need to make a good decision, but everybody is different."

The reproductive health course is designed to help students and to prevent unwanted pregnancies as well as unwanted diseases. Rather than concentrating narrowly on teaching abstinence, teachers should be able to focus on what the students need to learn for their overall well-being. Sex ed has been a method used to teach students, but the effectiveness of any such course is limited unless students are comfortable and willing to learn. A solution to this problem would be teaching information students can relate to realistically and is thus more relevant, rather than the current abstinence curriculum.

16 THE SPECTATOR

Scientists find the missing link between MySpace and Twitter

Rostylav Yeschenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

In a joint effort to find the absent internet fossils of the famed social network, internet paleontologist Dr. Chris White of University of Washington and Dr. Jerry Booker of Arizona State University discovered what may be the key missing fossil in the chain of social network evolution.

After browsing the interwebs for the past several months, the experts stumbled upon an ancient social networking site. “We knew immediately it was not a regular site. There were profiles, groups, and everything,” White said. As the team conducted their scientific analysis, they realized that they found what was perhaps the most widely used social network at the height of its popularity. “We are positive that this particular social network evolved after MySpace (*measpatium socialis*), but definitely before Twitter (*denique nuntiis*,” Booker stated. The site, although now extinct, was popular three to five earth years ago, or approximately 10 internet years ago. “We have solid evidence that people have used it in the past. There were posts, likes, comments, and general interest, but after the appearance of the *denique nuntiis*, the masses fled,” White elaborated. The profiles are still there, explained the widely recognized scientists, but the users are not.

After this eye-opening discovery, internet paleontologists across the world have been hypothesizing about the possible reasons for the rediscovered social network



Dr. White and Dr. Booker discover the new social network in Menlo Park, CA.

site’s disappearance. So far, there are three hypotheses that have gained popularity in the scientific world. One suggests that Darwin’s theory of the survival of the fittest took place and this ancient network was simply out technologized by the others. The second hypothesis, proposed by White, suggests the creators became greed driven shmucks who continued to spam the site with a continuous flow of distracting advertisements. Lastly, Dr. James Himachi of University of California, Irvine believes the cause of the extinction to be a result of a combination of both new networks flooding in to the market, and the poor business decisions on behalf of the creators.

Scientists are still debating what to call this extinct social network. One of the names considered is “The Online Book of Faces”, but that name is yet to be finalized.

Photo courtesy of NASA/GSFC/Rebecca Roth

Failure to communicate: The demise of linguistic aptitude

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

A devastating trend can be observed all around BHS. Students’ use of complex words is in sharp decline. This results in their growing inability to properly express themselves. Words are metaphors for the things we see in the world. From the physical nature of objects, to the emotions we wish to communicate, words play an incredibly vital role in all of our lives. Recently, it seems that society has

made language generally more simple and direct. Efficiency and convenience are highly valued in today’s world. Words that express complex ideas or are very lengthy have been abandoned for their more general synonyms. This loss of words is tragic because it slowly makes our society unable to verbally express precise emotions.

The English teachers at BHS work tirelessly to improve

the skills of critical thinking in their students. Among these skills is the development of a large vocabulary. It is beneficial that in the BHS English department, the teachers have a legitimate interest in the nuances of language, and find enjoyment in the subject they teach. Included here are a few teachers and some words they find especially enjoyable or important.

Mr. Paul Cierpial:

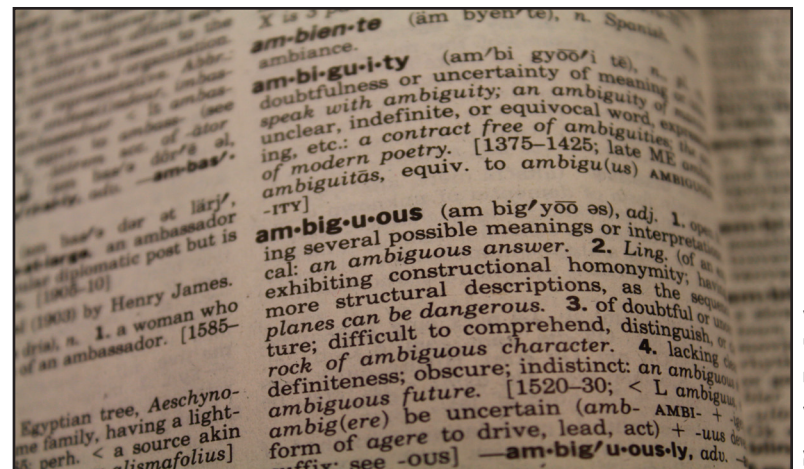
- Juxtapose: *v.* to place or deal with close together for contrasting effect
- Ambivalent: *adj.* having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.

Mrs. Kay Cole:

- Hierarchy: *n.* an arrangement or classification of things according to relative importance.
- Ambiguous: *adj.* Open to more than one interpretation

Mrs. Tess Ferrara:

- Sophomoric: *adj.* Conceited and overconfident of knowledge but poorly informed and immature.
- Ubiquitous: *adj.* Existing or being everywhere at the same time.
- Calamity: *n.* A state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss.
- Loquacious: *adj.* Full of excessive talk.



A dictionary contains a myriad of great words that can enhance your vocabulary.

Photo by Zoe Lask

These are perfect examples of the kind of words that many people do not use on a day-to-day basis. While it is interesting to learn about them and their meanings, their value arises from use. A large vocabulary on its own is not enough without the integration of these complex words into speech and writing. They can be used in an essay in order to

sound smarter, or used with friends to more eloquently get a particular point across. One way or another, effective word choice has begun to disappear in BHS students, and this is something that must be reversed immediately.

HITS OF NOVEMBER

HIT: Classy Thursday

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

Thursday, a day typically reserved for clock watching in anticipation for Friday, has undergone a transformation at Berkley High School. However, I would not overlook this day with such a laissez-faire attitude. Sophomore Caleb Driker-Ohren noticed how mundane and grueling every Thursday was and decided that there must be some way to provide excitement to the BHS population. With that in mind, Driker-Ohren and a few other BHS students have started the Classy Thursday movement. Driker-Ohren noticed how little excitement there was for school each Thursday and determined that he must inspire some change at BHS. He began the trend just over a month ago focusing on coupling his love for fine attire with the lack of a formal opportunity for students to properly express themselves through bow ties, button downs, and pocket squares. On any other day wearing such extravagant clothing around the usual sweatpants and blue jeans at BHS would certainly draw looks of surprise and confusion. However, when a group of people come together to collectively dress eloquently, the stares turn from feelings of shock to those of envy. Driker-Ohren would like to see students step up their style in an effort to make such classy articles of clothing the expectation, not the exception, at BHS. The movement has already begun to take off and pick up media coverage as advocates of the group have made a promotion appearance on the video announcements. The future looks bright for the Classy Thursday movement as it continues to gain popularity week by week.



Senior Morgan LaBarrie shows off her classy wear.

HIT: American Horror Story: Coven

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

American Horror Story: Coven is an action packed show on FX that tells the story of a group of witches living in modern day New Orleans. The season debuted on Oct. 9, with almost 7.3 million viewers, coming in as FX's second biggest premiere right behind *Sons of Anarchy*. The spell will be cast on you after just one episode. The show depicts a house of teen sorcerers learning how to use their powers while also dealing with trying to live a normal life. This season of *American Horror Story* makes Wednesday evenings the best primetime drama night of the week. A great cast, interesting plot, and spectacular effects shows you why the series was nominated last year for 17 Emmy awards. It turns boring Wednesdays into exciting, wicked fun. Watch if you dare.



HIT: Grey's Anatomy

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor

In the recent months, Berkley High School students, especially members of the female population, have developed a strong bond with the TV show *Grey's Anatomy*. The show first aired in 2005, but thanks to the availability of Netflix, viewers are now able to watch past episodes of the show as often as they please. This medical drama has captivated audiences for years, and now BHS is finally realizing the greatness that is *Grey's Anatomy*. Students cannot be certain as to what has caused the infatuation, but the most probable causes are the complex relationships, unbelievably heartbreaking deaths, and, of course, the abundance of attractive people starring in the drama, such as Dr. Derek Shepherd and Dr. Jackson Avery, played by Patrick Dempsey and Jesse Williams. Every Friday, following an airing of the masterpiece, fans of the show gather to discuss their likes, dislikes, and thoughts regarding the episode. Those that are still trying to catch up cover their ears to avoid any devastating spoilers. *Grey's Anatomy* has become more than just a TV show, it is now a lifestyle for many here at BHS.

HIT: Scrunchies

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor

Are you having a bad hair day? Do you want pretty things in your hair? Do you think ponytail holders are boring? Well there kind people, scrunchies are back to solve your hair problems. Coming back from the disco era, scrunchies are weaving their way back into the hearts of young teens nationwide. Not only are scrunchies fashionable, but they hold your hair in a way that keeps your hairstyle in place for the entire day. Ranging from plain black to rainbow sequins, scrunchies come in all different styles and if you are especially daring, you can put two in your hair for extra oomf. Although scrunchies are normally only appropriate for girls with long, flowing hair, guys can work them too with the miniature version. Join the party friends, and go grab yourself all of the latest styles of scrunchies at Walmart, American Apparel or your local drugstore. Bring the 80s back. It was such a good decade for hair.



Freshman Annie Silver demonstrates how to rock some scrunchies.

18 THE SPECTATOR

Waving a flag to victory:

A reflection on the color guard debut

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer

For years there has been talk of adding a Color Guard to the Berkley High School marching band family and the wait is finally over. This year, 13 additional members were introduced to the band of 120 making up the school's first Color Guard. Now, after their first season, the Color Guard is reflecting on their outstanding debut.

Starting in late August, the all-female group made their way onto Hurley Field during the football seasons first game's half time show with the BHS marching band performing an intricate choreographed routine of flag spinning and dance.

Undoubtedly, BHS Color Guard added a new flare to the band and in doing so gained a lot of attention from the BHS student body. Their participation this past season appeared to be a hit among BHS which satisfied the new team.

Junior Erin Gilson was thrilled to be a part of the inaugural Color Guard at BHS. When reflecting on her past experience, Gilson had nothing but positive things to say. She was especially pleased with the outcome of the season and its effects it has had on her as a student. "Being in

the color guard definitely enhanced my high school experience this year," Gilson said. "It pushed me out of my comfort zone and got me involved in something great with the school. I felt that I had accomplished something amazing by the end of it."

Along with Gilson, the rest of the Color Guard's members were pleased with the influences that the team had on their high school experience this school year. Freshman Maureen Tighe was grateful for

the opportunities that being a part of the team created for her during her first year at BHS. Tighe said, "[Color] Guard has really added to my first year of high school. It has let me meet and become friends with people of all different grade levels that I would have never of guessed I would have ever become close to."

The opportunity also allowed the members of the Color Guard to create a special bond with the BHS marching band through their exclusive work with them. Beginning over the summer, the two groups developed and practiced their routines together. Many of BHS's marching band members were pleased with the addition of the Color Guard. Junior Sarah Rivers said, "It was really interesting working with the Color Guard. It allowed the band to expand in size and performance quality." She added, "It was definitely exciting to have them work with us and something I'm looking forward to during the rest of my years in marching band."

This relationship has continued into the school year as the two teams practice during first hour when the band and color guard formally meet for class.

Gilson, Tighe, and most of this year's Color Guard members are planning to return to the Color Guard for next year. Based on the team's experiences, they encourage others interested in Color Guard to join for next year.

"It was an honor to perform with the band this past season and it was overall a beneficial experience. I would absolutely tell those who want to join Color Guard for next year to do it. It is a lot of hard work but a lot of fun, too. It was really an amazing opportunity," Gilson said.

With their successful launch, Color Guard has received considerable notoriety among BHS. Overall, The Color Guard seems to have situated their team for success not only for this past season but for future seasons to come. Hopefully such successes will continue with Winter Guard starting in December.



The color gaurd performs with the BHS marching band at every home football game.

Photo bu Malindi Lubinecky

Leyland steps down; Tigers hopefully step up

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

Shortly after being eliminated from the 2013 Major League Baseball postseason at the hands of the Boston Red Sox, humble Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland stepped down from his position. Leyland had been manager of the Tigers since 2005, and at that time the team was struggling and had a reputation as one of the worst teams in the league. In Leyland's second year as manager, he led the Tigers to the World Series, accomplishing one of the most drastic improvements of a team in the history of the MLB. Ever since, Leyland has helped the Tigers build their reputation as one of MLB's most elite teams. Thus, Leyland stepping down from his position came as a shock to the majority of the Tigers' fan base.

Tigers fans have claimed that Leyland decided to retire because he was tired, disappointed, embarrassed, and any other possible explanation out there. The accusations of Leyland being tired were not just from his tenure with the Tigers, but his managerial positions before coming to Detroit, where he managed the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Florida (now Miami) Marlins, and the Colorado Rockies. Junior Jason Reiter said, "Twenty two years is a lot to be managing [teams], and the traveling probably just got to him." Perhaps the 22 years of travel did bother Leyland and ultimately may have been the cause for him to relinquish the reins.

Leyland is likely going to stick around in the organization according to Tigers GM/President/CEO Dave Dombrowski, and many fans are happy to have Leyland stay with the team. There has been a lot of speculation in regards to what position Leyland will hold. Reiter said, "Leyland will probably be a special assistant to the general manager."

The search for Leyland's replacement was huge story in the MLB this off-season, and the Tigers found their answer on Nov. 3. Former catcher in the MLB, 44-year-old Brad Ausmus will be the man for the job. The Tigers had several options, including hitting coach Lloyd McClendon, and other outside people who interviewed for the job.

Junior Shane Dooley even had another name in mind. "Ozzie Guillen," Guillen was fired from his job managing the Miami Marlins in 2012. Guillen's trash talk and foul language has gotten him in to trouble in the past, and the Tigers organization most likely took that into consideration of their decision to hire Ausmus as they want to maintain their reputation.

The high expectations that the Tigers hold themselves accountable to will remain intact next season with all the talent they have on their roster. Although losing one of the best managers in the league could have a huge impact on their record, counselor Mr. Daryl Beebe said, "[The Tigers] are going to stink." Beebe made it clear that he thought Leyland did a great job as manager because of all the successful seasons that he had with the Tigers. Beebe also said that if they had a stronger bullpen, they could have gone all the way to the World Series this year.

Leyland stepping down as the Tigers' manager caught a lot of people's attention. All Tigers fans can hope for next year is that Ausmus is a suitable replacement and that he can lead the Tigers to a great World Series run just like Leyland was able to do.



Jim leyland calls for the lefty out of the pen for the last time ever agenst the Red Sox during game six of the ALCS.

Photo courtesy of Connormal, Wikimedia commons.



Brad Ausmus was introduced as the new manager of the Detroit Tigers on Nov. 3.

Photo courtesy of Connormal, Wikimedia commons.

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor and Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Clocks running down, scores tied, Berkley girls have the ball and they shoot, but do they score? Last winter they placed fourth in their league with a total of 12 wins and nine losses. Coach Jordan Gruppen works these girls past their limits during practices in order to get these types of results. This is shown by dominating senior Emily Koerner who plays a big part in the team's success. Eventhough last year's team had a decent run, this winter, it could go either way. "The chemistry just isn't there," junior Sophia Hall said. Despite a lack of initial gelling, junior Grace Hammerle said, "There is a lot of new talent being added to the team this year, which will only increase our overall strengths and skills as a team."

BOWLING

The lanes are greased and the shoes are polished. Finishing last year's season above 500 and winning over half their games, the Berkley Varsity Bowling team has gained much positive feedback. With last year's great stats Berkley's varsity bowling team is coming into the winter season with high expectations. "I am really looking forward to the season this year. We are definitely going to miss our seniors, but it looks like we are going to have a solid group of people this season," senior McKenna Donahue said. The teams coach, Rob Arnie, built close ties with each player and enhances their strengths. With many high scorers still on the team, a winning record seems very attainable.

CHEER

Go blue! Go white! Come on, come on fight! Last year's OAA champion BHS competitive cheer team is looking to defend their title as the season approaches. Head coach Leileany Inthavong accomplished her anticipated success to the fullest last year, her first with the team. The competitive cheer squad is also getting a brand new assistant coach this season to help the team become stronger. These talented girls have high expectations with the great coaching staff provided for them. "I have high hopes for the team this year but it's going to take a lot of work to be as good as or even better than we were last year," senior captain Rachael Rottner said. The team expects an impressive season and the hopes for a two years running championship is not far out of reach.

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Making a splash this winter is boys' varsity swim and dive team. Coming off the blocks and winning leagues last year, the team as a whole has very high expectations for this winter season. However, losing many valuable seniors makes achieving these hopes seem just slightly out of reach. "We lost a big part of our team, but we hope to have more people join. I have good hopes and we definitely will do well just maybe not as well as last year," senior Gabe Gedda-Shaheen said. With the help of returning top swimmers sophomores Eli Falk and Caleb Duchan and top diver senior Stuart Oleinick, they expect to dominate their rivals. So look out Royal Oak the BHS boys are coming for you, full speed ahead.

BOYS BASKETBALL

They are lacing up their shoes and tucking in their jerseys. This means the boys' basketball season is almost under way. Fledgling skill from last year has developed, and the Bears are expecting a much enhanced season. The 2012-2013 team, which played to a 4-16 record, consisted of a high quantity of underclassmen that displayed a great amount of potential. Junior point guard Jon Radner said, "Most of our guys improved a lot over the summer; I know I have." He added, "Although last year's senior Roy Johnson was a big piece to our team, we should have a successful season this year." Senior transfer from Cranbrook High School, Brandon Moore, will be a new addition to this year's team. This 6'5 center will have a lead role, and hopefully can take some pressure of some of the younger big guys. Come on out and watch the new team bounce to new heights.



The 2012-2013 Boys' Basketball team gets hyped up before last year's big game at Royal Oak.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

WRESTLING

Smack. Back hits the mat. One! Two! Three! and the winner is...Well, this year's hope is for BHS's varsity wrestling to take first place in each match. With winter approaching, the wrestling team is anxiously awaiting their upcoming season. Last year they won one match and lost five. With the help of their coach, Dave Roche, they have improved immensely both physically and mentally from last season. "I am expecting this to be the best wrestling team Berkley has had to offer in a very long time," junior Gary Brown said.

HOCKEY

The skates are sharpened, sticks taped, helmets snapped, and the beloved BHS hockey team is ready to be on the ice again. Last year's team proved their ability to win as they got bumped up into the higher, more competitive OAA Red league for the upcoming season. Hoping to duplicate their triumph from the previous season, senior defenseman Shane Goldberg said, "As long as we have Stevie [Stephen Wroe] in net, we got a chance to win." Wroe is a two-time all-state goalie and his team depends on him to save shots with his already proved prowess. The team is imagining an impressive season and is expecting more wins than losses, even in a more different league. Bring your winter coat and rowdy spirit on over to the Berkley ice rink this season to watch our boys win.



Photo by Zoe Lask

Senior Shane Goldberg is expected to be an outstanding defenseman this season.

Accepting mediocrity

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

Since many students at BHS are very young, most of us are encouraged by adults to be the best we could be in life. Parents tell us of our limitless possibilities, and how we have the ability to achieve everything we want in life with just some hard work and dedication. We all grow up thinking we are going to be someone important, but ultimately, we end up living average lives.

What do I mean by average? What I mean is that you will acquire a regular job, but your dreams of financial and professional success will not be fulfilled. If you want to become a doctor, for example, you will probably, realistically not be the best in your field or have your own practice. If you want to be a businessman, you will not be the CEO of a multimillion company. And if you are crazy enough to want to become a professional athlete, then you will undoubtedly fail. We are taught to believe that each of us are unique and that great things are awaiting us for in the real world, but this belief is false. You are probably reading this thinking that what I am saying is definitely not about you because you have an image in your mind of your future with all these great things imagined for you, but let's be honest here, how often does life go the way you imagined it? It's likely that, all your dreams and plans that you've been envisioning will most likely not happen, and you will have to settle for an average job in an average town, and you will live in an average house with your average second half and your average kids.

You might argue that success doesn't have to be about fame and money, but in our world, this is often how we define it. You see someone driving a nice car, living in a big house, and wearing designer clothing, and you immediately assume that person is successful. Without knowing anything about a person, but their material possessions, we can already label those people as successful. And truthfully, that is what a lot of us want. We want to have material things that say, "Hey, look how successful I am." Is it bad to want that? No, but as I said before, you probably won't attain whatever it is that you desire. At some point in your life, you will start realizing that your dreams are just too far out of reach, so you will start lowering your expectations. You will reconsider your college options and instead of applying to Columbia or Harvard, for example, you will start thinking that University of Michigan will do just fine. It's an exceptional school, you say, but it's not your dream school. Then later in life, you will start looking for jobs and when the job you wanted so badly was given to someone else, you'll think it's probably for the better and settle for your second, third, or fourth option. And when choosing a house, you will realize that the house you chose is just too expensive, so again, you settle for less.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, but you are not the exception. Some people manage to break through their limitations and achieve whatever it is that they seek in life. However, those people are outliers, not the norm. As cartoonist Grant Snider explained, "You can be anything you want! With some durability, in the right economy, after years of diligent study, given ideal opportunities, by neglecting other responsibilities, you can be anything you want to be." There are so many factors affecting the likelihood of your success that even if you necessarily try your best, there is not a promise you will succeed.

You are simply not a special snowflake. Your big dreams have a small chance of actually happening, and in most cases, it is not likely they will be realized. You will live an ordinary life, and that is great. The fact that you even have a life to live, considering the miniscule odds of it happening, is an amazing gift. It might be an average life, but it is your only one, so do your best to appreciate it.

You're the king of the castle and we're the dirty rascals

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

Most of us students occupy a majority of our valuable time with schoolwork, sports, clubs, volunteering, and other various extra curricular activities. However, our true motivations in filling our schedules up with these various activities appear to go unnoticed.

While we can all say we "enjoy" working hard and having every minute of our day jam-packed with as many planned events as humanly possible, we truthfully despise such routines. I'm sure many students would rather participate in a few select activities that are unique to their own interests, but our college preparatory culture won't let us. Instead, high school has become a fierce competition to see who is best suited for the college environment, or in retrospect, to what the deans of college admission deem to be invaluable. From the moment we step into high school our lives cannot be focused on pleasing ourselves, and those close to us, but rather we dedicate our lives to one-upping the competition at school. All the times we have felt accomplished because we beat the person next to us on a math quiz are dedicated to you, nitpicking college admissions officer.

It is somewhat ironic that we spend our entire high school careers trying to differentiate ourselves from the rest of those in our school, yet we end up filing out an application with the word "common" in its title. We are all tirelessly consuming our time with activities to set us apart from our class, while hundreds of universities choose convenience over a specialized application that is solely for their school. What if all students chose easy options over fighting to stand out? In this case, my application would be full of activities that include: weekly viewer of NFL games, daily nap taker, and participant in zero time-swallowing activities. These rousing extra curricular choices, joined with conveniently forgetting to do my homework, are the perfect storm in the eyes of any admissions officer. Being "common" is cancerous to any college hopeful student, instead, they must claw their way past every other kid in their grade to reach a standout level.

We must find a way to separate ourselves from the pack of students with similar GPAs applying to similar colleges. What else would class rank be notarized for? Brownie points? From the moment we stepped into BHS, we have been entrenched in a fight of GPAs and ACT sub-scores. You received a 26 on your ACT, but your best friend got a 29 — one point for your friend in the mind of admissions officers. It is that easy to fall behind the competition in high school — one wrong academic turn and the student population has already crushed you. To avoid these drastic pitfalls, extensive amounts of time must be dedicated to almost every subject area. Meanwhile, you are progressively losing interest in the various diverse activities/classes that you participated in with all your middle school free time. Even choosing classes requires someone to take other classmates' choices into consideration; if you are fighting for a top GPA spot and your academic opponent selects three AP classes then reasonably, you would try to come up with four college-level courses all in an attempt to look better to universities.

Now, by the time senior year arrives, you have completely failed to express any of your unique personality traits, unless you are in some fantastic summer program or have undergone an isolated, life-changing experience. The fight continues between my fellow classmates on college applications as they must list the activities they participated in during high school, and write a supplement about all the aspects of their life that "set them apart." They haven't necessarily pursued their dreams; they have relinquished all desires to advance their own interests in favor of bettering their classmates in sometimes boring extra curriculars. Instead, students are now fighting between mundane accomplishments, which show the same all-around excellence in high school, but seem to reveal very little about their actual personality and how they can affect the world post-graduation. One person is part of three National Honor Societies, another is an editor of Bear Tracks, another is the vice-president of their class, and yet another plays an important role in DECA. How do we put all the different accomplishments as standards of comparison to one another? The truth is, we do not. In essence, all of these activities are not necessarily a student's favorite things to do in the world, yet they participate in them because someone else did not. In this continuous fight against everyone else's accomplishments, the person with the most reputable and highest number of school activities "wins" because they have drawn the attention of colleges more sufficiently. The personal aspect of each applicant comes through in the 700-word writing supplements they produce. The few remarkable aspects about them are usually limited to being discussed in one essay as the others usually are telling colleges how amazing they are. We spend all of our time trying to one-up those around us anyways, so how what are we going to write our essays about? How we have a higher GPA than 40 other kids in the grade?

Currently, what each student truly enjoys doing doesn't receive the proper attention from the kids themselves or colleges because everyone is too caught up in degrading and competing with the students around them to better align themselves to their own future. Our lives are purely a competition with each other to who can better align themselves better to be precisely what colleges want of us.