

# SPECTATOR

December 2013



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**DECEMBER HOROSCOPES**

Monsieur Corington '14, Staff Medium

**Aries: March 21 - April 19**

This lunar cycle, the most important thing to remember is that words cannot bring you down. Ride above the naysayers and always believe in yourself.

**Taurus: April 20 - May 20**

Try to be more understanding over the next four weeks. Listen to all sides of the story, and make sure you are getting all of the facts before you make any drastic decisions that will have a large impact on your life

**Gemini: May 21 - June 20**

Be aggressive for the next 31 days. You have been too passive lately and the people around you have taken notice. Do not be a doormat and stand up for yourself!

**Cancer: June 21 - July 22**

This month, you will be very influential to those around you. Someone close to you will need to make a big decision and they will come to you for guidance. Trust your gut feeling, and make an educated choice.

**Leo: July 23 - August 23**

Overall, it is going to be a good next few weeks for you. Use this chance to maintain a positive attitude. When you are happy, everything is easier for you, and the people around you.

**Virgo: August 24 - September 23**

Do not let something bad ruin this month for you. Try to always see the silver lining in things. Everything is only as bad as you make it, so do your best to see the best in every situation.

**Libra: September 24 - October 22**

Embrace family this lunar cycle. You may currently have had a rocky relationship with your parental figures, but do your best to repair the wounds. Always remember, blood is thicker than water.

**Scorpio: October 23 - November 21**

Be thankful for what you have this month. Even though Thanksgiving has passed, remember the principles that it tries to teach us, because they are too often and too quickly forgotten.

**Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21**

You have recently struck a patch of good luck, but this will come to an abrupt halt this month. Be cautious because you never know what waits around the next corner.

**Capricorn: December 22 - January 19**

Since Capricorns have birthdays near the holidays, celebrate the season! Do not let anyone be a scrooge to you, and have a great holiday season because, after all, holiday time is the most wonderful time of year.

**Aquarius: January 20 - February 18**

You have suffered a recent traumatic experience. Do not mourn over it and feel sorry for yourself. Go out and change your future, you are the only one who can

**Pisces February 19 - March 20**

Do not be fooled by fake people. Make sure you know who you can trust and who you cannot because when you really need help, fake people will not be there, leaving you alone, and unprepared

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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 junior Caleb Driker-Ohren hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Driker-Ohren 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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# South African civil rights hero dies:

## A short tribute to the great Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

Nelson Mandela died on Dec. 5, 2013 at the age of 95 in his home in Johannesburg, South Africa. Mandela was the first black president of South Africa and an icon for racial equality. He fought valiantly against his country's policy of apartheid, the governmental system where white South Africans are the only ones who can rule, and he served 27 years in prison because of it. He was released from prison in 1990 following citizen protests for his freedom

and was elected president of South Africa in 1994, a position he held until he stepped down in 1999. Mandela was revered as one of the most effective diplomats of all time for his quick and efficient overhaul of South Africa's racist government. He was held in the highest respects in his country and internationally, winning hundreds of awards for his peacemaking achievements, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. South Africa's current president,

Jacob Zuma, saw Mandela as a great inspiration, "What made Nelson Mandela great was precisely what made him human. We saw in him what we seek in ourselves," Zuma said in an address to the people of South Africa shortly after the death of the great leader. The diplomat, leader, visionary and idol to millions will be missed for his devotion to reconciliation and to equality.



Photo courtesy of wikipedia commons

Mandela and former president Bill Clinton meet in Philadelphia.



Photo courtesy of wikipedia commons

South Africa's first African President shakes hands with his predecessor.



Photo courtesy of Obed Zilwa

The peacemaker shares his thoughts with the Dalai Lama.

## Annual holiday lights parade is a success

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director and Zoe Lask '16, Photo Editor

The ninth annual Berkley Holiday Lights Parade occurred on Dec. 7. With fun and festive cheer illuminating downtown Berkley, starting at 12 mile and Cummings and ending at city hall, the parade was a treat for all ages.

The parade started at 5:30 p.m. and consisted of various stores, organizations, and, of course, jolly old St. Nick. "I come out to the parade almost every year," senior Jakob Lewis said. "I get to see all of my friends and have a great time."

Shortly after the parade, the tree lighting ceremony took place at the gazebo in front of city hall. There, children of all ages had the chance to sit with Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

During the day, free trolley rides were available to anyone. The trolley rode up and down on the parade route picking up passengers and transporting them all around downtown throughout the afternoon. "It was so cool to go on the trolley," freshman Emily McGuckin said. At the trolley stops Berkley community members could find the BHS Choral Program, carolers, the BHS band, and free hot chocolate. There was also a petting zoo from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. Despite the chilled weather, the petting zoo had many different animals. "My daughter was amazed by how the ducks could take a bath in the cold water in this weather. I'm so glad [The Berkley Holiday Lights Committee] decided to expand the parade into a day full of activities," Berkley resident Anne Dines said.

All in all this year's holiday lights parade was one of the best yet. "This year's parade was a wonderful success despite the declining temperatures. It is the family and community event that ushers in the holiday season in our city," Berkley Mayor Phil O'Dwyer said. Citizens of Berkley and nearby cities will surely be excited for the next year's edition of The Holiday Lights Parade.

## New legal trouble arises for George Zimmerman

William Shulak '16, Staff Writer

Four months after being acquitted for the murder of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin, 30-year-old George Zimmerman was arrested on Nov. 18 for a felony of aggravated assault. After posting \$9,000 in bail, Zimmerman was released from jail two days after he was arrested.

Many students have strong feelings on Zimmerman's recurrent legal problems. Zimmerman received national infamy during the Martin trial due to the controversial nature of his accused crime. "I'm not surprised at all that George Zimmerman is back in the news. I just think he never should have got off anyway," junior Dewayne White said. White was not the only one who expected Zimmerman's violence to show up again. The new light shed on Zimmerman brings up many questions on morals and whether or not Zimmerman deserved a second chance.

Explaining his different view on the ordeal, sophomore Alex Morrison said, "I was surprised [that Zimmerman was back on trial] because of the whole issue with Trayvon Martin. I figured he would want to get out of the spotlight a little bit because the issue had risen and was there for quite a long time." Zimmerman has not been squeaky clean post-Martin trial since he separated from his wife in August, and she was "really scared" of him.

Zimmerman was banned from possessing guns and ammunition and was ordered to stay away from his girlfriend's house; he was also forced to wear a monitoring device by Florida Judge Fred Schott. Zimmerman is due in court again on Jan. 7. It will be interesting to see whether or not any more complications will arise. This will be an intriguing outcome because as of Dec. 10, Zimmerman's girlfriend does not want charges filed against him. Charges, as of press time, have not yet been dropped.



Zimmerman's mug shot from Nov. 18.

Photo courtesy of Orange County Jail, Florida



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## ALL FUN AND GAMES TILL SOMEONE GETS HURT

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

The new trend called the “knockout game” has taken the media by storm; it is a violent game being played by mostly inner-city youth according to The Huffington Post and New York Daily News. The movement is said to have originated along the east coast, but has crept its way to Missouri, New York, Illinois, and even into Michigan.

This may come off as some new virtual craze, but that is far from fact. The game is very real, and it is affecting unsuspecting people in cities nationwide. Normally, the “knockout game” is played by a group of adolescents in a crowded place that allows for an easier escape after the game is carried out. Only one person plays the game while the others witness the crime, and sometimes even video tape the act. The victim is chosen by the assailant at random who then attempts to knock them out in a single sucker punch. The victims are assaulted for no warranted reason, only for the amusement of the attacker and their accomplices.

The game has been reported on national media outlets across the United States. The constant bombardment of coverage of the “knockout game” is causing an uproar among the American public. Mass media often focuses on the majority of the attackers' races, thus stirring racial tensions. It was recent coverage that really pushed the “knockout game” into the national spotlight by Fox News, CBS News, and Today News, describing the assailants as “wolf packs” and “thugs.” The police are not sure whether the game exists as a real issue; they are stating that these so-called games could be either random acts of violence or racially motivated hate crimes. These wavering opinions however did not prevent some media from reporting on the games' spreading, the piling up of cases, or that the game could be equated to “terrorism.” Largely lost in the debate over whether the “knockout game” is a trend or a myth is the possibility that the media's fascination with the game itself might be inspiring copycat cases.

Michigan also has been experiencing cases of the “knockout game.” Marvell Weaver, a teen from Lansing, unknowingly targeted a man with a concealed weapon permit. Instead of merely trying to punch the man, Weaver attempted a different variation of the game, in which he used a taser to harm the victim. The taser failed, giving the victim enough time to pull out a .40 caliber handgun and shoot the teen twice, once in the leg and once near the spine. Weaver was lucky enough to survive the miscue and is now serving his time in jail for an unreported charge. Those involved in this unconstitutional game will be punished by law. Panic is spreading throughout the nation and rightfully so. The “knockout game” is no hoax and is endangering innocent people everywhere.



Photo by Zoe Lask

BHS students reenact what the knockout game would look like.

## AGREEMENT ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR DEAL IS REACHED

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

Representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France and Germany have reached an agreement with Iran concerning Iran's nuclear program. Concerns from the US and Israel prompted the meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on Nov. 24. The Israeli government is fearful that Iran is producing a nuclear weapon. Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, has promised the world that Iran is using its uranium for the purpose of power only. The worry lies mostly in that fact that Iran has enriched uranium up to 20 percent, the lowest enrichment level required to produce a nuclear weapon.

The deal requires Iran to not enrich uranium higher than five percent in the future and would neutralize its existing 20 percent enrichment level by converting it into fuel rods, rendering it non-weaponizable. The deal also requires Iran to halt development of its Arack Nuclear Plant which, if finished, is believed to have the capability of producing plutonium. In return for complying with the limitations, Iran will receive around \$7 billion in relief on trade restrictions regarding precious metals and oil, which have limited Iran's economy greatly. There will be no new nuclear sanctions in the following six months under the deal.

US Secretary of State John Kerry believes that the deals are a good place to start. “Israel will be safer; the region will be safer,” Kerry

said on ABC's *This Week* program shortly after the deals concluded on Nov. 24. The deals came just months after Rouhani was elected president of Iran, a relative moderate compared to his predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Rouhani openly backed the deals when he said, “No matter what interpretations are given, Iran's right to enrichment has been recognized,” in a nationwide address on Nov. 24. The deal has the support of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on the matter. However, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not satisfied with the deal. “[The deal] is not a historic agreement; it is a historic mistake... now, for the first time, the international community has formally consented that Iran continue its enrichment of uranium,” Netanyahu said in an address to his cabinet on Nov. 24. Netanyahu compared the integrity of the deals to that of the deal with North Korea in 2005, which was ultimately broken when the country began testing nuclear bombs.

Limiting the production of nuclear weapons has been vital for the survival and preservation of the Earth. The tumultuous situations in the Middle East will require special attention as technology advances in the world. These deals are extremely important in preserving peace in the Middle East and guaranteeing safety for the entire world's people.

## ORCHESTRA GOES TO CARNEGIE HALL

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer

Over the years, the Berkley High School music department has generated a considerable amount of news due to their expert musical skills and noteworthy performances. Once again, this year, their talent will cause much warranted publicity. This coming spring, the BHS orchestra will make their way to New York City's Carnegie Hall to take part in the performance of a lifetime.

The orchestra will be performing at the massive concert venue located in the Midtown Manhattan district in front of nearly 3,000 people, including a set of judges. The BHS orchestra, and other orchestras from all around the nation, will be judged on their instrumental and performance skills during the competition.

Junior and orchestra violinist Bailey McMillian is excited for the opportunity and feels that the concert will strengthen the orchestra and their performance quality overall. McMillian said, “This really is an amazing chance for the orchestra to be able to have.

I really feel confident that we will be able to raise the money in time for the event.”

Fundraising for the event began last spring when the BHS orchestra performed at Berkley Days in hopes of successfully kicking off fundraising for the event. Since then, the orchestra has participated in many performances and hosted countless events, such as a recent one held at the local restaurant, O'Mara's. In total, the orchestra will need to raise \$10,000 to be able to perform at Carnegie Hall in late March. They have already raised nearly \$5,000 towards achieving their goal. Other fundraising opportunities will be occurring over the coming months including more concerts in the BHS auditorium.

With a little help, the BHS orchestra will be able to take part in a great opportunity that will surely make the Berkley community proud. If you would like to learn more about upcoming events and how to help the orchestra fundraise, talk to senior and Tri-M student president, Elisa Strand.



# The truth about Santa Claus

Drew Leshman '14, Co-Circulation Manager

As a young prepubescent Jewish boy growing up in the suburbs of Detroit, it was very difficult to believe in the existence of Santa Clause. However, the impressive, yet unusual, tactics by my Christian friends, has allowed me to formulate that the white bearded old man is, in fact, real. The legendary Saint of Christmas is known to be “imaginary” to many but the students of BHS need to come to the conclusion that he is, without a doubt, a real, living, breathing human being.

On Christmas Eve every year, when you look closely at the sky, you will find flying reindeer transporting a large man in a red and white jumpsuit. Sometimes you do not even need to look up as you can hear the bells and whistles from across the oceans. No need to be alarmed, it is Santa’s job to be traveling and making ruckus in such a manner. It is possible, that while delivering gifts to young ones, he will have his occasional bad landing as he is not always the best at ensuring his reindeer come to the ground at a controlled, steady stop.

Every year, kids of all ages (and even some adults) sit on Santa’s lap and ask him for specific presents. They do not tell anybody what they asked for and yet somehow, every Christmas, they wake up with that magical gift they wanted under their tree. “Every year on Christmas Eve, I write down in my journal what I want from Santa Claus,” junior Eric Braun said. “I don’t tell a soul about it. Nobody knows, and Christmas morning, every year, I open that present from Santa, and that’s what I wrote down!” As you can see, it has been proven to one of our very own BHS students that the legendary Saint’s powers do, in fact, exist. “He’s the man. He’s real. He’s legit!” Braun continued. For all the nonbelievers in the world, if Santa Claus is not real, then how did Braun receive the exact present he asked for when nobody but Santa himself knew about it? It must be science.

Santa is known for his sneakiness and his ability to make children happy, but he does have his faults. These negative sides of Santa only continue to prove that he is real. His visits can be easily recognized from his infamous cookie and milk raids, to the occasional breaking of a chimney when delivering presents. But, truly, you cannot blame him. It is his responsibility to make his way into the house at any possible expense. After breaking the chimney due to his cookie-stuffed physique, he will continue his way through the house. He almost always

sees delicious cookies sitting on the counter; this temptation he just finds impossible to resist. “Santa Clause is real because where do [the] cookies go every year?” senior Jacob Hertzberg asked. After all, Santa should be allowed a delicious snack every once in a while for doing all the great things he does for children across the world. It is misfortunes like these that remind us that Santa is indeed real, whether we like it or not.

Being Jewish was not always easy—I was constantly dealing with all my friends making continued attempts to convince me that Santa is real. It put me in a tough situation, as I was more of a Harry Hanukah type, and I did not know how to tell them that I was never on my Santa flow. I learned to go along with their charade, and the longer I did that, the more I began to realize that Santa was in fact a real human being, and this overwhelming evidence made me condone that. All the nonbelievers in the world are just jealous of his unmatched skill set. After all, he does have the opportunity to do things “normal” people want to do in their lifetime, and much more.



Photo courtesy of Fortune Marketing Company

## Jazz Ensemble achieves greatness

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

At 7:00 a.m. the hallways of Berkley High School are nearly silent. The exception is the band hallway where the sounds of a jazz band hard at work break the silence. Surprisingly, not many people at BHS are aware that a jazz band even exists. This means that the vastly noteworthy successes of this program often get overlooked. The BHS jazz program consists of two separate bands—the Lab band and the Jazz Ensemble. Both consist of highly skilled and dedicated musicians who are willing to get to school at seven in the morning, two days each week, and practice and perfect their musical talents in Jazz.

Band Director Mr. Alan Posner is driven towards the success of the students. “Jazz is a more aural skill than other music classes meaning that students must hear and internalize the music more before they can be successful with it. It is much more than just playing notes on a page,” Posner said about the benefits of playing jazz music as an extracurricular activity.

The Ensemble has always received a “first division” rating, the highest score, at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Jazz Festival. In addition, they have been invited to perform at the MSBOA Adjudicators’ Clinic, the MSBOA Jazz Workshop and they will be performing this February at the Central Michigan University Jazz Weekend in Mt. Pleasant. It is evident

that their success is spreading.

“The Jazz Lab Band has also come a long way since its inception last year,” Posner continued, “Mr. Ambrose, the assistant director, has done a tremendous job with this group, and they have already surpassed my expectations for the year.” The Jazz Lab band is the newest band. It is essentially the JV to the Jazz Ensemble’s varsity. Yet their dedication to music is equally admirable, and Posner believes they too can certainly achieve great scores at MSBOA Jazz Band Festival.

Jazz band members’ rehearsals begin at 6:50 a.m. and do not end until 7:30, and many of them go to band as their first hour class. This intensive music study really pays off. “When we got a one at the MSBOA jazz band festival, it was a great show and it really showed how hard we had been working,” senior Zac Schildcrout said.

The Jazz bands are a fantastic, yet underappreciated, group at BHS. Their hard work and musical excellence deserves to be recognized. Check them out when they collaborate with the choir for the first time ever in the Valentine’s Day concert on Feb. 12 in the BHS auditorium.



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There is one day people around the world look forward to the entire year, and this holiday has become more popular than all other holidays. People's family, jobs, social lives and everything else must be altered to work around this day. Christmas is not only the favorite day of countless people, but the entire month of December is celebrated as if it were a holiday in and of itself. All of the holiday spirit and joy clouds the general population's inability to see the holiday as what it is, a shady conspiracy run by a man in the north pole.

Imagine this: a heavy man spends all his time indoors in front of a large screen watching children while they are awake as well as while they are asleep. While he is watching the kids very closely, he devours copious amounts of milk and eats tons of baked goods. He wears the same thing all year long and wears the same puffy pajamas. This man, of course, is Santa. Now, the first flaw with this old guy's annual process is that he spends his days watching small children's every move. He watches them around the clock, and this is where our good friend Kris initially crosses the line. America is worried about the government spying on them, how about direct their attention to Santa. This man later judges the children he has been watching and delivers gifts or coal to them based on their behavior. However, these gifts are not built by Jolly Ol' St. Nick, but rather by his slaves, also known as elves. Elves work year round for no pay, only to repeat the process year after year. As a modern society, we are concerned about slavery, but apparently the North Pole is an exception.

Santa also abuses his beloved reindeer: Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Dancer, Dixon, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen, in order to deliver the gifts. Now, humans have gone around the world, but they did it in planes, trains and automobiles, and they do it in a lot less than 12 hours. These ten poor deer drag Santa's fat bum to every house that celebrates Christmas in the entire world. This would not be a problem if they were supplied with more than the reindeer ration, which consists of glitter and oatmeal. This violates many animal rights laws, and we encourage you to call your congressmen as well as to contact PETA in order to stop the cruel treatment of these helpless animals.

Lastly, and possibly worst of all, Santa drops into your house through the chimney. While you are still sleeping, he clumsily stomps around your living room, eats your cookies and then proceeds to the next house. This process seems pretty harmless considering that his intentions are deemed good, however, by doing so he breaks many laws that we don't want to encourage our kids to do likewise. First of all, he cannot come into your house without an invitation, it is trespassing. In addition, he does not only steal your food but he eats everyone else's cookies promoting obesity, which is a main topic concerning health as of late. He is basically everything that is not good in America. Mr. Kringle should instead go from house to house, having a banana or some granola. A healthy alternative would make it easier for Mr. Claus.

All good things must come to an end. The Cookie Monster has already taken one for the team, and Santa Claus must follow suit. Perhaps he should slim down to a healthier weight and start to pay his laborers. He should also contact an automotive maker with a plan to go electric for the next Christmas. With all these suggestions in mind, it is about time for St. Nick, if that is his real name, to change with the times.



# Haunted by the holidays

Cameron Cece '16, Staff Writer

The holiday season has arrived again bringing back a feeling of warmth and bliss to everyone. Many have gained a genuine dislike for the holidays due to the loss of true meaning and importance regarding the holidays in most recent years. Many now believe the holiday season is just a nuisance that brings back obnoxious music, forgotten relatives and cold weather that will torture us until the earlier months of spring.

Freshman Quinn Ryan is an ex-holiday fanatic who has lately been discouraged by the holidays. Ryan's biggest holiday pet peeve is how specific the holiday season has become and how cautious one has to be when wishing someone a happy holiday. Ryan wonders what happened to the classic sayings, "Merry Christmas or Happy Chanukah." Ryan continued, "I actually really like the holidays; I just don't like having to be careful with every friendly greeting I give to someone."

Another downside to the holiday is the traveling. "Every year my family and I commute to Canada to visit my family which is nice, but it's always the day of Christmas," Ryan said. Traveling is a luxury, but when stuck in a car for hours is not someone's holiday fantasy. Hopefully this year Ryan will be able to celebrate the holiday season with a little bit more spirit and less irritation.

Like Ryan, sophomore Tanner Onnela is just trying to survive the holidays this season with as few annoyances as possible. That's pretty hard to do when family never leaves your house and does not ever bring a small gift or recognize that they are not in their own home.

If families do bring gifts, the token is appreciated, but why can it not be anything other than an unbearably itchy sweater? "It sucks they are really itchy and hurt after a while," Onnela said. The upside to the holiday sweater is that, "It makes Grandma happy," Onnela added. The down side is trying to revive your body from the itchy beating he just suffered from about a week of visiting. "If they come to my house without bearing gifts they better be able to bare the cold," Onnela said. Well played, sir.

Junior Sam Taub feels that during the holidays a gift is just not a gift; it is a symbol of how much someone cares for someone else. Though presents should not be a large part of the holiday, people feel they can purchase some very small and unimportant presents. For the holidays season Taub is asking for the greatest present of all and that is the truth about what she got for the holidays. She said, "Just say you forgot to get me something don't just throw some random stuff in a bag." Taub also feels that the holidays have lost their true meaning. "I would want people to remember that the holidays are about giving and being good people," Taub said. For most people the holidays are just a time of buying and receiving gifts now, but in the past, the holidays had a totally different meaning. The holidays were a time when one could show another that he or she meant something to them.

Hopefully the holidays will regain their past meaning making it once again the most wonder time of year. It is time to bring back the joys of being grateful to be surrounded by family and friends, receiving gifts that have a more symbolic meaning and just recognizing that this time of year is great.

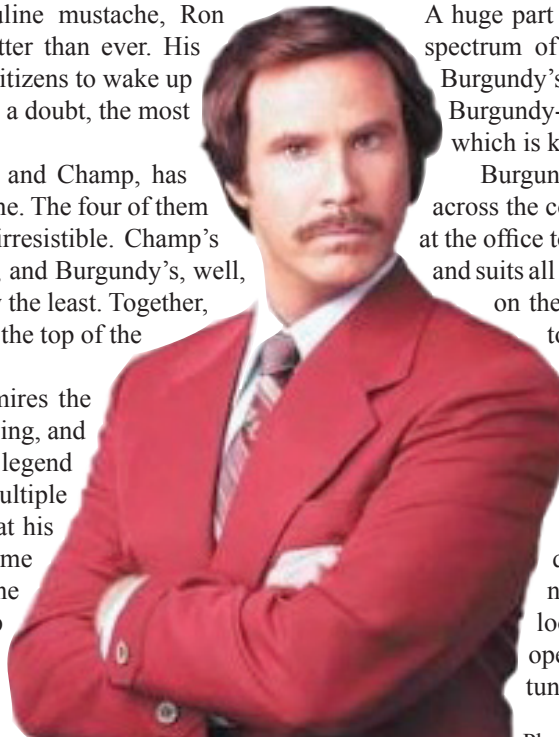
# THE RETURN OF RON BURGUNDY

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

With his flowing, silky hair, sharp suits, and masculine mustache, Ron Burgundy, the San Diegan Savior, returns bigger and better than ever. His delivery, passion, and determination motivates San Diego citizens to wake up every morning and greet the day. Ron Burgundy is, without a doubt, the most interesting man in the world.

Burgundy, with the support of his crew, Brick, Brian, and Champ, has established himself as one of the best news anchors of all time. The four of them have an aura of confidence about them that makes them irresistible. Champ's western style, Brian's vast cologne assortment, Brick's wit, and Burgundy's, well, everything, makes this cast of characters newsworthy to say the least. Together, these four men have taken the Channel Four News Team to the top of the charts in San Diego.

Burgundy himself is a man with a huge heart. He admires the city of San Diego, where he reads the news, goes suit shopping, and cares for his beloved dog, Baxter. Burgundy is known as a legend throughout the San Diego community, including winning multiple hot dog eating contests and also his out of control parties at his home. Freshman Kevin Jurvis said, "Ron Burgundy makes me smile in so many ways. His legendary quotes and mustache can brighten even the darkest of days." A news anchor's top priority is making people happy and informed; without a doubt, Burgundy fulfilled these obligations.



A huge part of Burgundy's refined image is his suit collection. From the entire spectrum of colors, to possibly even a few colors that he invented himself, Burgundy's collection is just awe-inspiring. Jurvis said that his favorite Burgundy-worn suit was "his all red suit with [the] red, black and blue tie," which is known to be a popular fan favorite.

Burgundy has also had great success winning over the hearts of females across the country. He has fantastic upper body strength from sculpting his guns at the office to impress former co-host Veronica Corningstone. His hair, mustache, and suits all add to his unmatched charm. The vast knowledge Burgundy possesses on the history of San Diego makes him perfect for the newsroom, and to top it all off, he is among the best jazz flutists the world has ever seen.

Burgundy is known for his spontaneous heroic actions, such as leading his news crew out of an alley fight safely and wrestling bears. This heroism is the reason Ron Burgundy is considered to be the San Diegan Savior.

Burgundy's journey to become the best news anchor in the world continues Dec. 18 as *Anchorman 2* come out in theatres. Some have questioned whether Burgundy could handle the pressure of being a network anchor. These pessimists were proven wrong as Burgundy looks down on them from his pedestal atop the news world. While opening presents, decorating the tree, or eating Chinese food, be sure to tune in to Ron Burgundy leading his 24-hour cable news team.

Photo courtesy of Geeks of Doom

## MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

A thrift shop can be defined as many things. Officially, however there are three types of stores that sell used clothing according to the Association of Resale Professionals. A resale shop buys goods from individual owners; a thrift shop is run by a nonprofit organization to fund charities; and a consignment shop pays the product owner a percentage if and when the items are sold. The action of thrift shopping is a way to be both economical and feel as though one is contributing less to negative environmental impacts.

Thrift shopping, to some, can seem intimidating as well as an activity for the impoverished. But, in reality, shopping second hand is a sure fire way to find useable items for a great price. With the crowds and racks on racks of unorganized clothes, it can be a bit overwhelming if you are only used to shopping at a "regular" store. Patience is always rule numero uno when thrifting. Minimally, an hour must be spaced out each time someone plans to search through the various racks, aisles, and sections in order to snag a great find. Always bring a friend because when the shopper has a buddy, they can be a tag team of sorts. They can conquer more racks in less time as a pair. Lastly, never pass on purchasing an item just because it is not "designer" or "name brand." A good deal is a good deal, period.

One's style is never determined by their wallet. Do not pass on going thrifting because of the snobby opinions of others. There is nothing wrong with buying clothes (that are still in good condition) from a secondhand shop. The items one discovers there can be just as nice, if not nicer, than one could find at the everyday department store. The opportunities are endless at thrift shops; one can find any type of clothes and shoes in any size. One stipulation when thrift shopping: always clean clothes

before wearing.

The recent recession had a huge impact on the thrift shop industry. "People are thrifting more than ever," Ann Arbor Value World manager Linda said. In 2012, the used merchandise industry, which includes sellers of apparel, furniture, books and jewelry, racked up \$13 billion in revenue, according to First Research. Saving money is the biggest appeal of thrifting, as many budget conscious moms appreciate the low prices offered for their children items. The resale market "is blossoming thanks to value-conscious consumers," according to the national Association of Resale Professionals which projects seven percent annual growth in the number of consignment and secondhand stores opening from the current estimation of 25,000 shops.

Besides the incentive of saving money, thrifting has also become trendy. Macklemore asks listeners continuously on the radio, "Can we go thrift shopping?" Secondhand clothing and vintage items are showing up as couture, street wear, and everyday casual wear outfits. For many veteran thrifters, though, it is just plain fun. Thrifting also appeals to teens looking to express themselves. This representation often requires picking through a lot of crappy shirts or ones with funny sayings that actually are not that funny. Any reason one looks for them, not knowing what they will find is the best part about thrifting. "What I love about thrifting is the thrill of it, the challenge in finding something unique that everybody else is not going to wear," junior Hailee Halprin said. The joys of thrifting include "treasure hunting" through the racks, finding a great deal on cute clothing, and feeling like one has made a discovery. The love of vintage style, affordability and the thrill of the hunt will keep people coming back for more.



How you know you are in a high school hallway

Josh Radom '16, Student Life Editor

If there is one thing that students can agree upon, it is that weird stuff goes down in these hallways. Students are constantly doing things that create an interesting (and sometimes) uncomfortable atmosphere throughout the halls. From weird smells to judgmental looks, the BHS hallways have it all.



Elevator Eyes

For those of you who do not know, "elevator eyes" is a term used to describe the actions of one's eyes when they bounce from head to toe while checking out what a certain passing person looks like, is wearing or is doing. This is also known as the "up-down," or a way of getting "checked out." The intention of the "elevator eyes" is that it is an easy way to judge people. Sophomore Andrew Stock said, "[Elevator eyes] can be a good or bad thing, [and] it depends on what the person sees." He continued, "If what they see is good they could be like, 'Oh, they're looking good,' and if it's bad they would probably think 'Ew, what does she have on?'" The "elevator eyes" are a very common occurrence at BHS that can result in the split-second judgment of one's appearance that day.

Slow Walkers and Stand Stills

This is probably the most common abnormality that one would find while hurrying from class to class at BHS. No one knows why, and no one ever knows the people who do it, but some students just tend to walk extremely slowly in the middle of the halls. It is amazing they get to class on time, dragging their feet along like that. Some students who are a little faster in the halls tend to pass these students and some even make quiet, yet obvious comments such as "let's go" or "walk faster" under their breath. Other students happen to take more of an aggressive route in order to get the turtle like walkers moving. "Sometimes I try to trip them to make them move faster," sophomore Myles Jones said. Obviously, that is not the safest way to conduct oneself when try to get students to stop walking so annoyingly slow even if it is effective.

The complete cycle and demonstration of the elevator eyes.

Strange Smells

I do not know about other high schools, but from the moment you walk into BHS you are instantaneously bombarded with an array of interesting and usually disheartening smells. "So I walked into school, and it smelled like soup and it was really weird," junior Julia Viner said. She continued, "The other day it smelled like B.O., and last week I walked in and I thought there was a gas leak; I don't want my school to smell like this—it is not funny." Some of these strange smells are uncontrollable like the smell of a large building being heated or the array of food stink in the mornings, but the body odor is completely preventable. It is a baffling thought that every student cannot simply put deodorant on before coming to school in the morning. It is easy and should be a necessity for everyone regardless of age or gender. Strange smells seem to be commonly found around BHS every day, so who knows what the next weird one will be. Fingers crossed it is better than the prior smells.

Loco for Jacobell

Bennett Hart '16, Sports Editor

Over the last year and a half a band of sophomores have become obsessed with Taco Bell and thus formed a cult around it.

Sophomore Robert Boyd who goes to Taco Bell at least two times a week believes that he is addicted.

Boyd said he would not go to Taco Bell nearly as often as he does now if the restaurant were not so close to BHS. However, this is an excuse, he made it seem like he was glad that Taco Bell is close when he spoke of the lunch atmosphere at the fast food joint. "There is a community of people who go to Taco Bell regularly," Boyd said. In addition to developing relationships with fellow customers who frequently visit Taco Bell, Boyd and other regulars have made connections with the employees there. Boyd was even able to come up with the name of his favorite Taco Bell worker—Katrina. Boyd's addiction is beyond the food, it is about the experience. Due to the location's convenient placement near BHS he has been pulled into this society of taco lovers.

Sophomore Sean Maruskin believes that the fast food giant of Taco Bell "probably is [addictive]," and he admits to visiting Taco Bell about three times a week. It sounds like he is pretty committed to the Taco Bell cult.

On the other hand, sophomore Even Tarnapoll believes that Taco Bell is not addictive. Tarnapoll explained, "They're addicted to eating [poorly], not just Taco Bell." He believes that the society exists, but the members of the cult are not addicted to this food in particular. This point is valid and intriguing, because can someone truly be addicted to Taco Bell? Probably not, but the Taco Bell clan still exists.

Boyd has sure been lured, enticed, and baited. Although he said, "I'm addicted because it tastes good," but he has clearly fallen into the trap. It is more than the food that has kept him coming back. It is the lifestyle. Be careful BHS, don't be next.

How Mr. Weingrinch Stole the Holiday Break

Malindy Lubinecky '15, Layout Director



Every Bear down in Berkley liked the holidays a lot... But Mr. Weingrinch who lived just North of Berkley did not. He hated the whole Christmas season and no one ever knew quite why. Some say that perhaps his tie is tied too tight, but whatever the reason, he stood there in room 265 staring down at the Bears with a sour, salty look. For he knew that the holidays were coming, and that every Bear in Berkley would get lazy and overly excited for winter break. The town of Berkley was run by the mayor Mr. Randall Gawel and his Bearbros Mr. Mikey Ross and Mr. Ronnie Kane. Among the Bears was a young woman named Ms. Martha Mae Mullins who was loved by all as well as Ms. Cindy Lou Church, the sweetest girl in town. Seeing the happy faces that each Bear had in anticipation of break, he was about to give up, but then he dropped his pen and got an idea, a clever, but awful idea. He was going to steal their holiday joy. With his trusty TI-Nspired calculator, he began developing his plot to take over the holiday cheer. He started rummaging through his closet in search for the perfect tie to wear when he crushes the spirit of the students. After hours of looking, he finally pulls out his tie with candy canes and Santa Clause faces all over. He quickly creates a Windsor knot around his crisp collar, and then remembers that he must not forget his trusted companion, TI-Nspired. So, he pulls out another tie with reindeers and swiftly ties it around the width of the calculator. His plan to ruin break was to swamp the Bears with pop quizzes and tests. So he headed to his desk, sat down, and began typing. He typed so many mathematical equations that his fingers started to cramp. With a sly smile on his face, Mr. Weingrinch awaited his class' arrival, for he knew that he was about to ruin everything. As the Bears entered his room, he saw their cheery faces glowing with spirit, and as they took their seats, he declared, "You all have a pop quiz and test today!" Although the Bears were expected to react in groans of aggravation, instead, they began to thank him. Their reasoning—it would help them become smarter. And as he looked around the class in awe, and he realized that he had not destroyed their holiday joy. His hatred towards any holiday fun had diminished instantly and he quickly withdrew the quizzes and tests, for he knew that it was the right thing to do. Then he gathered around everyone, turned on his television and they began watching one of his old basketball tournaments that he scored numerous 3-point shots in. All were happy. The End.



# Give them what they really want: Secret Santa gift ideas for every type of person

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor and Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

It is that time of year again. Christmas music is playing, and trees are being decorated. Christmas has finally arrived, and along with it comes Secret Santa gifting. No matter what the religion, the Secret Santa tradition is a common one to unify students here at BHS. This is meant to be a fun way to share gifts, but it can be difficult to pick out the perfect gift for the right person. To ease your stress when it comes to gift getting, here are some ideas based on one's personality that are sure to make everyone feel merry this holiday season

The best gift for a sporty person can be anything as simple as some dumbbells, protein bars, a football, or as complex as an EZ Flex II which is a jawline workout tool. Almost every jock enjoys something that has to deal with fitness or eating healthy. It is an even better gift if it goes along with their favorite sport or gym at which to work out. For their favorite sport, just give them an accessory such as some basketball shorts or a nice new duffle bag for when they go to the gym. If you do not workout or play sports often, finding a gift for a jock can be difficult, but with these ideas the recipient will be as cheery as Will Ferrell in *Elf*.



The Jock

North Pole

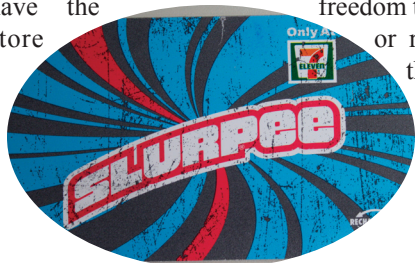
The Girly Girl



The typical girly girl likes things that enhance her appearance. This means anything colorful, sparkly, good smelling, or eye appealing. Items that fall under this category are nail polish, perfume, and accessories like jewelry or scarves. Every girly girl loves a nice nail polish, like Essie or OPI, or perhaps an array of lululemon headbands. As long as it smells nice, like most perfumes do, one cannot go wrong with purchasing a refreshing body spray, and possibly its accompanying hand lotion/sanitizer. Accessories are a little more tricky, but if the recipient is a friend, and you are feeling good about your gift-getting skills, then go for a headband or necklace from Forever21 or Claire's. Girly girls can be hard to buy for, but sticking to these tips will ensure they receive the perfect present.

This is the one who people have absolutely no idea what to get. There is a magic little device that will solve all of the problems this person poses, and they are known as gift cards. This little piece of plastic will stop the stress of not knowing what to get, while the recipient will still receive a fantastic gift. Many people enjoy choosing their own presents anyways, and gift cards allow them to have the freedom to do so. All the gifter has to do is find a store

or restaurant they believe will appeal to their chosen person. The amount the gift card is worth is up to the gifter and varies depending on the limit of the Secret Santa you are participating in.



The Indecisive Person

Hopefully you will never again go through the stress that Secret Santa tends to bring. As long as one puts some thought into it and follow the advice given, then they will undoubtedly choose the right gift. Happy gifting!



# A holiday guide for a PC gamer

Jake Kreinbring '16, Entertainment Editor and Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

In the wake of the next generation of consoles releasing, we would like to take a moment to remind you of a third option to the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One: PC gaming or computer gaming. PC has been able to run games for years at 1080p resolution and 60 frames per second, something new consoles are only starting to do now. PC gaming offers you all the games you can find on a traditional console as well as a variation of independently developed titles. So here is a round-up of the best PC games out there for those seeking an alternative to console gaming.



*Dota 2* is the sequel to the *Warcraft III* mod, *Defense of the Ancients*. Massive PC games studio Valve has taken on development with the help of some of the original modders. Its predecessor was the premiere Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA), a genre that has grown to include hugely popular games such as *League of Legends*. In a five-a-side format, players choose one of the 112 (and counting) diverse heroes, and battle it out. The game takes place on a map composed of three lanes, with the ultimate goal being to destroy the other teams' bases located on each end. The game has a thriving competitive scene, with a total prize pool of over \$2 million, and \$1.4 million awarded at the victor at the world championships in August. To top it all off, *Dota 2* is free to enjoy for as long as you like on Steam.



*Spelunky*, originally released on PC, underwent a makeover on Xbox, and is now back on PC, all clean and new. In this adventure, the gamer is on underground exploration in search of great riches, meeting great peril along the way. You work your way through mines, jungle and ice, in order to reach the legendary treasure of Olmec. Each level is randomly created, so each level is an exciting, new experience. Exclusive to the PC version is the Daily Challenge Mode which sets every player in the world on the exact same levels to compete for a single high score, a revolutionary feature in the world of roguelikes. The game is not an easy one to complete, on account of permadeath and the intricate process required to finally reach the end. The game is accompanied by a beautiful and thematic score and Eirik Suhrke. For only \$15, developers Derek Yu and Andy Hull provide an engaging, exciting and more than slightly challenging adventure.



Two years ago, a game known as *Terraria* was killed by developers. This indie project was cancelled and the fans of the game were devastated. Earlier this year, the game was resurrected, and with it came enough content to make a whole new game. This 2D platformer has elements of an RPG and a sandbox game like *Minecraft*. It is based on combat and the gamers quest to build the coolest house in addition to fighting and killing all the boss Monsters. On the journey, the gamers find marvelous weaponry, and possibly a pet as a companion. With its pixel style artwork as well as the easy controls, this game is a must have for casual and hardcore gamers alike.



In the ever expanding world of the genre known as roguelike, one game seems to stand above the rest. *Dungeons of Dredmor* has a lot of classic elements of an RPG, such as customizing character skills, choosing ones name, and collecting weapons. This game also contains special elements that classify it as a roguelike game. One of these key characteristics is the inability to respawn once your character has died once, or permadeath. As you battle through the treacherous dungeons, you will find small things that will make you enjoy the game even more, and will lead to an even more exciting journey. All of these awesome elements make *Dredmor* a must have this holiday season.

## Naughty or nice: The annual war over music

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

Giddy up, kids, Santa Claus is coming to town. The temperatures are decreasing and certain radio stations have gotten into the holiday spirit by playing Christmas tunes in an endless loop. Songs filled with jingle bells, melodic voices, and memorable lyrics, make it close to impossible to get the festive music out of one's head.

While some people sing along, others prefer to shut off the radio or change the station entirely. The controversy at hand is whether or not Christmas music should be played at such crazed amounts or rather, prior to the actual Christmas season occurring. While some may argue that playing Christmas songs directly after Halloween is bothersome, others simply jam out to the classic tunes. "I can listen to Christmas music all year round; I love it more than anything," junior Samantha Cash said, "It gets me in such a good mood, and who doesn't want to be happy? I wait for this time of year when every radio station has my favorite artists like Mariah Carey or Frank Sinatra singing," Cash added.

Others, however, are strongly opposed to the tradition of blasting Christmas music months in advance. Although many singers such as Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, and Dean Martin portray the joy that the holidays emphasize, after weeks of listening to the same song over and over, it can get quite annoying to hear, "playing Christmas music in November, are you kidding me? It isn't even Thanksgiving yet," junior Andrew McIntire said, "Christmas music makes me feel lonely because all of the songs consist of is people falling in love and that's just an unrealistic thing for me. I dislike that people play it for months, it's a bit much."

When it comes to music, everyone has an opinion. Some enjoy months of the same genre and lyrics while others need new types of music to periodically refresh their musical cravings. So, if you are opposed to the Christmas jingles, grab some earmuffs because they are here probably until Spring Break.

## 14 THE SPECTATOR

# The best movies you have never seen

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor and Zoe Lask '16, Photo Editor

When high schoolers think of movies, blockbuster and hollywood films are surely what comes to mind. They talk about, become obsessed with, and grow attached to these big franchise films. While this is fine, some of the lower-budget, lesser-known films get overlooked when it comes down to the choice between watching the two. The reason for this is that no one ever really gives these movies a chance. If someone is looking for a good movie to watch, he or she should take a break from what he or she is accustomed

## The Place Beyond the Pines

This dark drama follows the consequences of motorcycle rider Luke, played by actor Ryan Gosling. When Luke finds out he has a young son he knew nothing about, he knows that he wants to support him. He feels this way because he has not played any part in his son's life up to that point and wants to change that. To do that he starts committing crimes with the help of his friend Robin. Once Luke has committed a few crimes he cannot stop, he becomes obsessed and it becomes too much for Robin to handle. He tells Luke he is on his own now. Luke then goes rouge and commits a crime that leads him to be targeted by policeman, Avery, played by actor Bradley Cooper. This offense will lead these two men on a tense collision course changing both of their lives forever. This film takes you on a roller coaster of emotions showing what a father will do to support his son with superb acting from both Gosling and Cooper.

## Kings of Summer

This movie is a feel good, coming of age film that a lot of people in the teenage demographic can relate to. *Kings of Summer* is the story of Joe (Nick Robinson), Patrick (Gabriel Basso), and Baggio (Moises Arias) as they grow up. It involves something that all teens have thought of once or twice: running away from home. These boys come together and build a house for themselves to live in without the rules of their overbearing parents. While one should not run away from home, the way in which they handle the situation is both heartwarming and relatable. It stars familiar faces like Arias who portrayed Rico from *Hannah Montana*; he adds comedy and humor to the film with his random ways and weird remarks. While the parents look for the boys, viewers might find themselves rooting for the boys to be happy and live as they are in the parent-free world they have built for themselves. This is a must see movie if you are a teenager who has ever disagreed with your parents before, which is pretty much most BHS students.

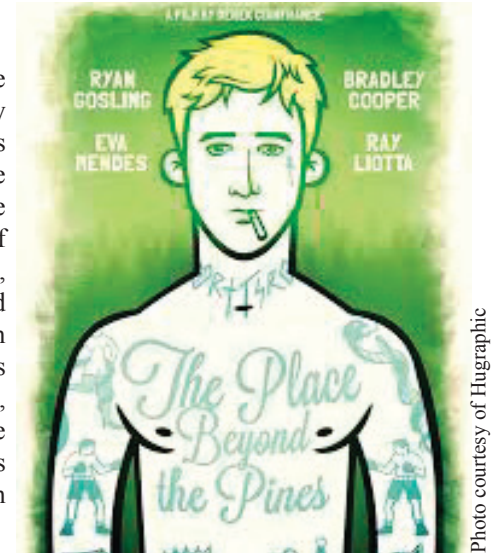


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# Generation selfie

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

Think of the most vain, superficial and obnoxious phenomenon today. What comes to mind? Most likely, you thought of girls taking selfies. With the upsurge of Twitter and Instagram has come an increasing amount of selfies taken and shared publicly by young people. In fact, 'selfie' was named the word of 2013 by the Oxford Dictionary. Predominantly, these people are teenage girls, and recently, they have been the target for much criticism. It is the general consensus that girls who partake in the selfie phenomenon are only concerned with their appearance, or that their self-esteem is directly related to the number of 'likes' they get on that particular picture. Are girls really that simple, or are they just an easy target? Why is it that there is so much hatred directed at girls who take selfies? Who are they harming?

In a world dominated by the image, we are constantly bombarded with photoshopped and meticulously edited images that warp reality. This pertains particularly to young girls, who are shown repeatedly what their bodies should look like, what the condition of their skin should be, and what clothes they should wear in nearly every magazine, billboard, and TV ad. In an environment such as this, it is no wonder that young girls feel pressure to identify with these images. Yet, despite awareness of these pressures, girls still receive criticism for taking selfies. People are so quick to judge girls who take selfies because, as a society, we accept that teenage girls are inherently vain and insecure. However, this notion is wrong; teenage girls are in fact each unique and strong, and this is reflected in the selfies they take.

Adolescence is a time of great confusion, often leading to the desire to establish one's identity. This can be accomplished through the selfie. The technology that is available to us has made huge advancements in the past decade alone, and young girls have seized this opportunity. The selfie is a powerful tool used to promote an image that one wants to be known by, and yes, when this image gains appreciation in the form of 'likes,' this often boosts self-esteem. Does this mean that the people who engage in selfie-taking are vain and self-conscious? No. It means that they are taking advantage of tools such as Instagram and Twitter in order

to take control of their own image. The selfie has allowed young girls to establish their individual identities and find a place for themselves amidst an image-crazed culture.

We are all familiar with the selfie—we all take them, even if we don't necessarily publish them, and we see the selfies of our friends, classmates, and celebrities all over social media. Often, I am extremely impressed by the selfies of my classmates and the editing that can be done on an iPhone alone. It isn't just about self-appearance; it's an art that not all can master.

Senior Olivia Perry is widely regarded as BHS's 'selfie queen.' She said, "I take selfies about every three days. It's fun. If I'm bored, I'll get ready to take a selfie. Sometimes, my friends and I hang out just to take selfies, and we have a lot of fun doing it." However, she is not affected by the amount of 'likes' she gets on her selfies." She continued, "Someone told me that 'I thrive off likes.' That same person then followed me on Instagram and liked all of my pictures." Perry argues that she does not "thrive off" likes, she merely enjoys the process of selfie-taking. It is only natural that one should feel good when their pictures are liked by their peers, but this does not necessarily mean that they depend on it. In the words of Perry, "It's *your* Instagram. Some people choose to post pictures of food, some choose to post pictures of dogs, and others choose themselves."

Photo by Sebastian Betzer



Selfie queen, senior Olivia Perry, takes yet another selfie in AP Statistics.

That being said, there is such a thing as moderation. Too much of anything can be annoying. Yes, scrolling through your newsfeed and seeing the same person's face over and over again can become obnoxious, but generally, this is restricted to a few individuals. Altogether, selfies are a fun, fast, and efficient way for young people to take control of their image as well as express themselves artistically. Ezra Koenig, frontman of Vampire Weekend and proponent of selfie-taking said in an interview, "When I'm on Instagram and I see that somebody took a picture of themselves, I'm like, 'Thank you.' I don't need to see a picture of the sky, the trees, plants. There's only one you." He's right; there is only one you, so don't be ashamed to share it.

## The underlying gilded-ness of Skyward

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Business/Ad Manager

Eight hours a day, five days a week, students are occupied, bombarded, and suffocated by an overwhelming amount of work and stress. Yet, this stress is not only present while students are in school. A majority of BHS students constantly carry the heavy burden around with them because they can not escape an application on their phones called "Skyward," otherwise known as "Family Access." This app makes it easy and efficient to check one's up to the second grades on a smartphone. However, in my belief, the result of using the Skyward app, is that students create a sickly habit of continually monitoring grades, rather than focusing on the main point of high school: developing crucial habits for the rest their life.

From what I have observed and experienced, the stress and pressure of high school is only enhanced by the round the clock access to Skyward. "[Skyward] makes me more nervous about checking grades because I know it is always there and ready," sophomore Skylar Tate said. "When [the grade] is not in, it makes me more agitated." Tate then went on to add that having that the application on her phone is the reason why she checks her grades obsessively every hour. It may be true that a challenging level of stress may be healthy because it forces motivation and combats procrastination, however, an hourly habit of checking one's grades, creates an intolerable atmosphere filled with anxiety and stress.

While attending BHS every day, I have recognized the fact that high school, in most student's eyes, is the determining factor as to whether they are going to succeed in life, although this idea is faulty at best. "After a grade is posted, or a homework assignment is turned in, I will go on my phone to see if [the teacher] graded it. That affects my overall grade, and my overall grade affects my life," junior Jared Smith said. A great amount of energy goes into students' concentration and addiction to grades, and Skyward only encourages the flawed theory that grades are of the utmost importance. "Family Access is the epitome of what is wrong with all of the bad stress," sophomore Eli Falk said. The grades of high school are such a minuscule detail of a person's overall life. The amount of pressure placed on getting A's or B's is obsolete, yet this view is skewed by students habitually checking Skyward on their phones.

	T1	T2	E1	S1	T3	T4	E2	S2
1 AP GOVERNMENT S1	A	A		A				
2 PRE-CALCULUS S1	A	A		A				
3 BIOLOGY A S1	A	A-		A				
4 JOURNALISM A S1	A	A		A				
5 HONORS ENGLIS S1	A	B+		A-				
6 CHEMISTRY A S1	A-	A		A				

Photo by Corey Lipton



# KOOL just ain't cool!

Peer pressure leads to an increase in smoking



Ty Eldridge '14, Assistant Photo Editor

With smoking rates declining over the past three decades, a recent phenomenon indicates that the tobacco industry is increasing its efforts to appeal to young adults. The prevalence of smoking rose in 2012 from eight to 22 percent, among young adults, according to Paula M. Lantz from Department of Health Management & Policy at the University of Michigan. Smoking cigarettes has become a trend as an increasing number of BHS students are starting to smoke. Whether it is in the back of a restaurant or in a friend's car, the scent of cigarette smoke wafts through BHS after lunch. "I have heard some people say they will go and smoke at their houses," freshman Riley Sawicki said. So why are teens smoking? Peer pressure is likely the most common reason that teens start to smoke. In 2012, the University of Purdue conducted a study about teens' smoking influence. "Peer smoking was by far the strongest predictor of smoking progression," the study's lead author Elizabeth Lloyd-Richardson of Brown University in Providence, R.I. said. Teens that have friends that smoke are more likely to start smoking because it gives them a sense of belonging. "Teens who had at least two friends who smoked were more than six times as likely to become intermittent smokers than those whose friends didn't smoke," the Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology said in 2011. These studies cause eye brows to rise at young adults who are smoking.

Teens might start smoking because they are curious, others might get the idea to smoke because it is something "cool" that gives them a rush. Students are starting to succumb to the peer pressure even with all of the warnings. The worse people make things sound, the more teens want to do it. Smoking is portrayed negatively by the media which in turn, makes it more attractive for teens. No wonder kids are lighting up. One and a half million packs of cigarettes are illegally purchased for minors annually. "I have heard of students buying cigarettes from each other," sophomore Hanna Cohen said. Teens think that they are invincible, and they fail to understand the true reality that is the more they smoke, the more their chances increase for contracting lung cancer and dying earlier than usual.

The health risks of tobacco are well-known, but that does not stop teens from trying the destructive habit. Someone can get addicted to nicotine within the first couple days using. Females who smoke have an increased risk of developing specific cancers and heart disease. Nicotine effects mood as well as the heart, lungs, stomach and nervous system while other short term affects include coughing and throat irritation.

Although teens are already educated on smoking, it seems they smoke just to disobey on purpose. Teens should think about the goals that they set for themselves and think about the bad breath, smelly clothes and heart problems. Teens should think about the fact that smoking can wrinkle skin, and cause teeth and fingernails to yellow. Teens need to think about the careers they want and their aspirations. Smoking has immediate downsides including less money to spend on other important needs.

Peer pressure exists even if students feel as though they have not become a victim. Teenagers should value their own opinions and their own life. "Teens tend to get addicted much sooner than adults," Katie Kerwin from Healthy Policy Solutions said. Just like adults, teens might smoke to get rid of stress. Teens should be enjoying life, not risking it. If you are a smoker, first, admit that you made a mistake by starting to smoke and that if you could go back in time you would never start. Second, quit. It is not simple but once you stop and think about your future and goals, stopping will become your motivation to be successful in life. Teenagers need to understand that smoking does not make them look cool and understand the fact that smoking makes their finger nails smell awful and their skin crumbly. Once they understand these facts, teens should realize it is in their best interest to quit.

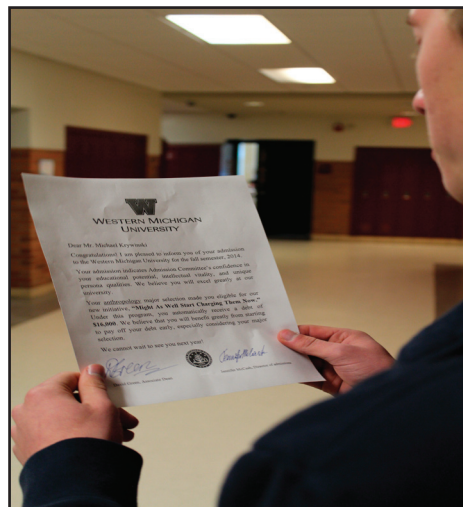
# Student to major in anthropology, already in debt

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

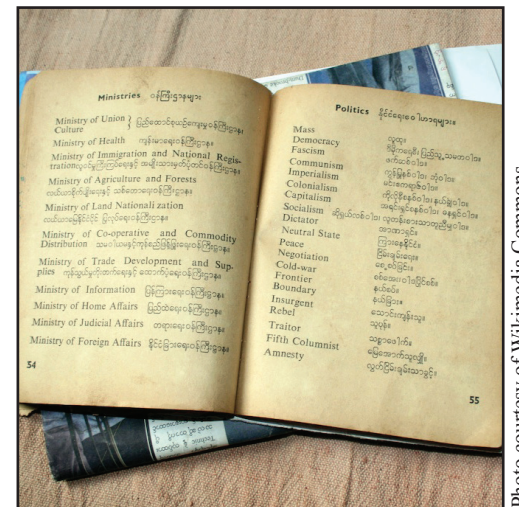
A local senior who plans on majoring in anthropology was notified yesterday that he has already accumulated a massive amount of college debt.

Senior Michael Krywinski was accepted to Western Michigan University with intentions to pursue a Bachelors of Arts Degree in anthropology. Unlike many students who receive admittance letters, Krywinski also received a notice explaining his outstanding debt of \$16,000. "I thought it was scholarship money at first," Krywinski said, "But then I realized it was I who owes them money." According to WMU, the anthropology major is one of many majors implemented in their recent "Might As Well Start Charging Them Now" initiative. Lora Killington, the university's financial aid manager, explained that, "Anthropology is one of the many, what we like to call, elite degree programs that we offer at our campus. This opportunity allows students to start experiencing the real world full of debt and disappointment within the confines of our beautiful university." Killington mentioned the other majors that participate in the initiative are English, business administration, liberal arts, and psychology. "Engineering and science degrees, on the other hand, are not part of that initiative. Unfortunately, students actually do find employment relatively fast with these degrees and pay off any outstanding loans and debts relatively quickly," Killington added.

According to every respectable newspaper, anthropology is one of the most promising fields for students who do not wish to have financial independence in the future. "Kids who are interested in working in the fast food industry should definitely consider the degree," Killington advised. Meanwhile, Krywinski has already started doubting his degree choice. "I mean, I am not even sure what anthropology means, but it sounded like fun to me," Krywinski said.



Krywinski was shocked by the debt letter he got.



Books such as these, are not even included in the debt.



Krywinski has already saved up two dollars, which leaves him with only \$15,998 of debt left.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Photos by Zoe Lask



# HITS AND MISSES OF DECEMBER

## HIT: Naked

Ty Eldridge '14, Photo Editor Assistant

Recently, the smoothie beverage Naked has become popular among the female population at BHS. The drink is produced from healthy natural fruit like kiwis, bananas, and strawberries; it can also be used as a protein drink to satisfy one's appetite. The smoothie has made its way amongst the BHS student body. They are finally realizing the refreshing taste of this smoothie. Naked product line has a great variety of 20 different drinks, consisting of straight and blended 100 percent real fruit and vegetable juices. Although the juice is pricey, costing \$3.49 a bottle, it is worth every cent. Naked is not just a drink, it is a lifestyle, a healthy lifestyle at that. Join the Naked movement by purchasing the trendy drink from a local Kroger or fruit market.



## HIT: Jewish Parade

Josh Radom '16, Student Life Editor

Hanukah has never received the holiday recognition it deserves. Everyone forced to view the over glamorized Christmas decorations including giant pine trees that do not belong indoors inside residential houses as well as blinding lights from house to house. There is even a huge parade dedicated to celebrating Christmas. But where is the Hanukah spirit you may ask? It is right where anyone would expect it to be: Huntington Woods, MI. Every year, Huntington Woods hosts a Hanukah celebration parade. The participants place giant menorahs on top of their cars and drive down Lincoln in an effort to spread the word and take pride in celebrating this underrated holiday. The parade helps Jews feel as if their special holiday is at equal importance as Christmas. Even though the parade is only a few minutes long, it shows the beauty of the diversity and holiday spirit around the BHS community.



## HIT: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

William Shulak '16, Staff Writer

Not only does *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* get heat from the title, but also, Oscar winning actress Jennifer Lawrence is hot. The second film in the *Hunger Games* trilogy was directed by Francis Lawrence. *Catching Fire* takes place about a year after where the first movie left off. Main character Katniss Everdeen has just won the 74th annual Hunger Games, and she thinks her big worries have been dissolved; however, it is announced that past victors will be obligated to compete in the upcoming edition of the games. With deep character connections and death, the movie is very dark and dramatic. The film is rated PG-13 for intense violence, action sequences and frightening images. The acting in this movie is spectacular and even better than the great previous film. Not only has *Catching Fire* won critics' praise, it has broken box office records earning \$161.1 million for its opening weekend. With great performances and a touching story, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* is a must see for the holiday season.



## MISS: Group Names

Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer

In recent years, many of the BHS students have started to name their friend groups. Whether these groups of friends are big or small, their titles remain prevalent and well known throughout not only their grade but much of the entire school. Although being identified with their peers in a catchy titled group may be humorous and cute for some, the names these individual groups are calling themselves may be alliterative, but they sound absurd. These groups have been known to be exclusively indicated through the number in the name that caps their BFF group. However, without "getting in," that person will never feel accepted as a part of the group. Whether the reason for the lack of acceptance into the group is because the addition of a person does not fit the name, or sometimes the person simply does not fit the group. This sometimes can cause stress to a person that just wants to fit in. Many people in the school are simply irritated by hearing these groups' names on a daily basis. "My group of friends had a name last year, and I was kind of embarrassed to be in it and to be called it. Group names are just stupid," freshman Hunter Steingold said. "I am a part of a group, and I love it," senior Peter Bahry said. Others however tend to disagree, like Bahry, a member of "The Set." The student population understands that you may have a tight-knit group of friends but perhaps the name should be kept to yourself or simply not assigned at all.



# The art of tickle fighting: Past, present and future

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief and Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

While tickle fighting may seem like a strictly joking matter, there are some very serious guidelines to consider before engaging in a battle. These rules were handed down from the National Tickle Fighting Association (NTFA) and can be found in their annually published handbook:

**1.** Before initiating a tickle fight one must ensure that their opponent is in a state capable of effective tickling. This means “cheap shots” are not allowed. Catching any opponent off guard will result in immediate expulsion from the NTFA and a fine of up to \$100,000 for the tickler at fault.

**2.** To make the battle official, both ticklers must be of stable health. The elderly and children under the age of two do not qualify as able-bodied tickle fighters, and initiating a fight with one will result in federal prosecution of the guilty party.

**3.** Once two registered NTFA members are prepared for battle, they both must assume the standard fighting position – feet together and faced directly towards one’s partner, hands at one’s side, fighters spaced three feet apart from one another.

**4.** After both fighters are properly positioned for tickling they must perform the ancient handshake that the founding members of the NTFA created back in 1994. This consists of opponents taking their right hand and hovering it over and then under their opponent’s right hand with the higher nationally ranked player hovering on top first. The gesture made is one of discipline yet ferocity, and closely mirrors a part of the handshake between Detroit Tigers third baseman, Miguel Cabrera, and former Tigers first baseman, Prince Fielder.

**5.** It is essential that the ritual is completed before a battle can take place as the society has frequent imposters that attempt to infiltrate the organized system.

**6.** Each participant must wear customary NTFA skin-tight body suits with holes in the armpits, behind the kneecaps, and up the thigh (not too far of course). Since the armpits are the prime tickling spot on the body, those coveted areas must be cleanly shaven according to official NTFA rules. Additionally, every fighter must have their home country’s flag painted on the suit so during every match the fans can identify the nationality of the brawler. Every professional fighter must feature this decorated suit while amateur fights can be competed in any attire.

**7.** Now, the battle may commence with standard UFC rules applying. The winner of the battle can only be determined when either one taps out of the tickling madness, one has both of their own hands firmly in the other’s armpits, a tear is shed due to laughter, one soils their own pants, or one passes out from the overwhelming amount of tickles.

**8.** Lastly, once a winner has been determined (although it may take up to three days) the victor receives a honorary belt which the victor must continuously wear throughout the day, with the exception of bathroom breaks and tickle training, until their next bout.

Tickle fighting is considered one of the oldest sports in the world. Historians still argue about the origin of *titillare pugnae* more commonly known as tickle fighting. Many, including tickle fighting pioneer Dr. Felix Burgough of the North American Association of Tickle Fighting Historians, believe that Romans were the first to participate in the intricate sport. While others, such as Dr. William Jensen, the president of the Tickle Fighting Research Committee, believe that Spartans invented the sport to enhance soldiers’ overall strength, stamina, and fighting skills. The core of the arguments stems from the multitude of definitions used to describe tickle fighting. Officially, the Tickle Fighting Research Committee defines tickle fighting as a sport in which opponents fight using their fingers with the intention to make the other laugh continuously for a minimum of 10 seconds. The North American Association of Tickle Fighting Historians defines it as a sport in which opponents fight using one’s fingers with the intention to make the other one either tap out or fall on the floor. These two equally correct definitions has caused great turmoil in the professional tickle fighting community which continues on to this day. After the Roman Empire collapsed, the sport had been neglected until the 20th century when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics decided to revamp the sport. Between 1953 and 1960, the Soviet Union trained more than 1,200 tickle fighters, most of who fought in the Eastern European Tickle Fighting League of Masters. The United States saw the revamping of the sport as a threat to its democratic core, and thus responded aggressively with Operation Armpit which consisted of secretly training 5,000 tickle fighters who were then sent to participate in the League of Masters. The tickle fighting rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union continued for decades until 1991 when the USSR fell apart. In 1994, the National Tickle Fighting Association was formed and the sport has been gaining worldwide popularity ever since.

With ever growing popularity, NTFA lobbies the Olympic Committee to include tickle fighting in 2024 Tokyo Olympics Games. Many students feel highly optimistic about this proposition. “I think it’s got a good shot. It might take over a less interesting sport, like track,” senior Jimmy Meyers said. But to make it into the premier of all athletic events that sport will need more than just a shot. “It depends on how much people push for it. I would fully support it,” an anonymous tickle fighting advocate, who preferred to have his identity hidden for the sake of avoiding public hazing, said. Controversy surrounds the sport as many are offended by the inappropriate touching the activity entails. However, it cannot be denied that inclusion in the 2024 Olympic Games would mark the official arrival of tickle fighting into the realm of the most popular sports worldwide. “That’d be pretty sweet, then it’d officially be a sport,” sophomore Hana Coon said. Little does Coon know that tickle fighting is already an official

sport as national leagues have popped up all over the globe in places like Algeria, Tajikistan, Moldova, Indonesia, Bolivia and even the United States. The ultimate goal of the NTFA and tickle fighting associations everywhere is to get the sport added to the 2024 Olympic Games in Tokyo, until then, all ticklers will remain unsatisfied.



The National Tickle Fighting Association's (NTFA) logo.

Photo by Zoe Lask, edited by Rostyslav Yeshchenko



# SHREDDING BACK INTO SEASON

Cameron Cece '16, Staff Writer

Finally, it is time to once again grab your gear and hit the slopes, as ski club has returned with all new members and the infamous Friday afternoon trips.

Ski club has been a running club at BHS for many years and is currently run by history teacher Mr. Keith Miller. This year, the amount of active members is at one of the largest numbers they have ever had. "We got a large group of kids, but that's a good thing," sophomore Patrick Schindler said. On Dec. 6 the club had its first trip and most said it was a success, with busses at maximum capacity. The schools involved with ski club are the BHS, Norup, and Anderson middle schools.

Ski club is known for being a place where students can hangout and relax while having a good time with friends being active at the same time. "It's a really good way of meeting new people," junior Megan McAlpine said. The group usually has a lot of time to learn about each other when on the bus to the ski destinations. "The bus rides

are a lot of fun that is where we learn about each other and meet new people," McAlpine went on and said. Last year, this time was disrupted when the beloved Friday trips were moved to Thursday. The effect of this change was many ski-club members could not often participate, but this year that problem was fixed when the trips were moved back to Friday. "It just fits better into schedules because we don't have to worry about doing our homework during the later parts of night," Schindler said.

The club has nine more trips this year going most Fridays and has other trips occasionally that allow members to go up North. Ski club is a great way to stay active during the winter season while also having a fun time. To join ski club visit Miller in room 275. The club costs \$125 to join which includes the bus rides for all ten trips and a membership discount card. Each individual trip cost \$18 plus an additional \$18 for the price of equipment rentals.

## WINTER IS COMING, FORTIFY YOUR FITNESS

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

As winter blankets the world in snow, and temperatures drop to almost unbearable levels,, it becomes far more difficult to maintain a healthy level of fitness. Even athletes who are active during the fall might have the tendency to become sedentary as winter progresses. The winter however, is full of chances to work out and maintain a healthy level of fitness, or even begin conditioning for spring sports.

The BHS weight-room is a great way to get to or stay in peak physical condition in the off-season. While \$50 may seem like a lot of money, the benefits of working out are priceless. The warmth of the weight room is also a huge advantage during the winter months when it is simply too cold to go outside. Building muscle is perfect conditioning for spring sports, and working out

through the winter will certainly take your abilities to a new level.

Running is one of the most effective ways to maintain one's fitness throughout the winter months. In fact, running is perfect because it can be done in any condition. Layer on athletic clothes, such as Underarmor, and you are good to go for a 30-60 minute jog. Running is also a part of many sports and improving this skill can add a significant edge over opponents who may not train during the off-season. Even if you are not involved in sports the cardiovascular health benefits are certainly worth the effort.

If participating in the aforementioned activities does not seem especially rewarding to you, there are still many other opportunities to stay healthy and fit this

winter. Snowball fights, sledding, skiing, snowboarding, and shoveling the sidewalk are all activities that engage muscles, burn calories, and can be enjoyable. While it may not seem like it, these forms of exercise are equally as important as running or weight training. Staying active, through any means, helps keep overall fitness high.

Despite the onset of freezing temperatures, making every effort to get up and move around is essential. This is a season of cozy fires, time with family, and tons of festive food so staying healthy and getting plenty of exercise is a must. Working out may seem unappealing during the winter, but its benefits make the effort worth it, and perhaps make you appreciate the winter season even more.



## Bearacuda-ing our way through life, one tweet at a time

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor

Every day, I walk into school and it is almost as if I am being trampled by an endless swarm of Ugg-wearing, bagel-eating, hipster-dressing zombies, or at least that's what they want me to think. I walk into class, mutter good morning, sit down at the desk in the very back, take out my phone, press the tiny blue app and enter an exciting fresh world of sarcasm, jokes and pictures of puppies brought to you by @CuteEmergency. The same zombies that I had encountered moments before are now alive with character and personality with a plethora of things to say on Twitter. Compared to what I had seen only moments before with what I was seeing on Twitter, I came to the conclusion that we are all catfishing each other in real life without even realizing it, or in BHS's case, *Bearacuda-ing*. Unlike the MTV hit show *Catfish*, I would not go so far as to call anyone who is reading this an internet liar, but the exact opposite. Instead of catfishing people online, we actually catfish people in real life.

A lot of us tweeters at BHS are able to give off the impression of having a "leave me alone or you die" attitude to the real world, but as soon as we enter the twittersphere, we are born into a new and exciting version of ourselves that we would most likely never portray in real life (I'm an exception because the only thing I talk about on twitter and in reality is how I like sloths).

Take senior Marlee Rothman for example. Many students who have known Rothman for years, know her as the nice, sweet and maybe even shy teenage girl, but once she hits you with one of her tweets, she completely morphs herself into her alter ego @Marlee\_Rothman. But, if one were to only know her in real life and not on Twitter, then that said person would be inclined to think that Rothman acts the same way on Twitter. This is the result of Bearacuda-ing. People are prone to think that people are the same on and off the internet and without the help of social networking sites like Twitter, people are motivated to make accusations based on how that person acts in person.

Many of our intentions are not to trick people in the real world, but rather give off the impression that we are all great people leading normal and uninteresting lives instead of, per say, freaking them out with all of the outrageous thoughts and comments that are actually going through our minds. Unlike trying to find relationships as seen on *Catfish*, we seek relationships in the real world which requires us to act and talk the way that society wants us to instead of the way we want to. Twitter gives many of us a chance to shed some light to our followers as to what many of us are really like. By being able to become ourselves, we spread our thoughts and comments to other tweeters through sarcastic jokes, and in my case, through pictures and comments about sloths. But one must wonder: why can't we be equally as fun, outgoing and entertaining in person instead of hiding behind a metaphorical iPhone blanket to show who we really are? "I feel a lot more open to being blatantly sarcastic and vulgar online. People would think that I'm psychotic if I talked the way I do on Twitter," Rothman said.

Keeping what Rothman said in mind, it seems that people, no matter what age, are constantly seeking the approval of others. In person, we pride ourselves in Bearacuda-ing by keeping things simple and not taking spontaneous leaps in conversation in order to fit in. With the curtain of Twitter or any other social networking site in front of us, we are able to think freely and spew out random things that may or may not make sense, but are still appropriate because we are being ourselves. With the help of social networking sites, we are able to show our true personalities without having to get to know someone in order to be weird around them. Everything is just out in the open, which is nice instead of keeping our guard up.

It is really sad to think about how we feel a sort of comfort and serenity in being ourselves on the internet instead of in reality. Like Rothman and I, many are afraid of or uncertain about showing their true personality out in the open due to the fallacious judgments that people may make. With being able to use Twitter and websites alike, we are able to fly like a bird and howl to the heavens every weird thing that we think. Instead of Bearacuda-ing our way through life, what we all should try to do is get out from under the social networking blanket and start acting the way we should — as ourselves.

## I apologize, Ms. Natalie Taylor, I apologize

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

English Department, oh English Department, we have had some memorable run-ins while I've been here at BHS. From vehemently disagreeing with the old English language taught through many of our novels to questioning the tactics used to prevent the substitute of reading with SparkNotes, it is not difficult to see that I have not always been your most enthusiastic fan. While I may have been too quick to judge the curriculum during my first three years, now that I have completely gone through the book reading ranks — from *Huck Finn* to *Julius Caesar* to all the books I didn't read while I was busy in AP Lang — I can now say that all those grueling hours attempting to decipher the texts of old English were well worth it.

Yes, I am ceasing my argument against the teaching of such out-of-touch literary works and finally, formally, apologizing to the English department (but to you especially, Ms. Taylor) for the harsh words. Maybe this is just an attempt to make peace with all my gripes before I leave BHS, but regardless, I truly do feel sorry for the inconsiderate words.

Every English teacher at BHS should take pride in their job as they are the single most important factor in shaping a high school student's mind. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the job all teachers do, but, from my learning experience, I can confidently say that the skills I attained while in my three English classes at BHS will shape my life long after I graduate in June.

I don't believe this is a matter of being shortsighted; having the ability to write with sophistication and precision is an invaluable skill to possess in college and in the workplace. Regardless of the career you go into, being able to thoroughly depict your thoughts is a necessity, and if you can write eloquently and display a passion, then even better. Of course, having knowledge of the natural sciences, being well-versed in math, and being able to recall vital points in world history are all important, but then again what mildly-educated American wouldn't know the President who abolished slavery?

After finishing my last novel in Honors English 10, I felt a sense of relief knowing that I wouldn't be obligated to read any more time-consuming and boring books. At that time, I was just like everyone else who considered reading these stories a nuisance. But then I realized that the valuable takeaways from the class weren't noticing how annoying Pip was being that day, yet it was more of a subconscious enlightenment.

Day by day, all of us were gaining analyzation skills that we can apply to all facets of our life. What seemed like busy work that we all moaned and groaned about was actually one of, if not the most important aspect of our education at BHS. It may seem silly to say this but it is true — those daily activities challenged us to translate what we had just read (in the book or on Sparknotes) into a formulated response relating to specific themes or the novel as a whole. We were then required to write an essay where we articulated our own opinion based on the conclusions we came up with in class. All in all, this process was tedious yet it still ended up stimulating thinking and allowing connections to be made between multiple aspects of a text and in relation to other supplemental texts. As much as we all hate to admit it, this process does have meaningful benefits. So what appeared to be meaningless busy work turned out to be an activity that will surely help everyone throughout the rest of their educational careers and their lives.

As for the language in many of the "classic" books we are obligated to read, I'm still fed up with all the "Art thous" and the unconventional sentence structure. I'm sure the reversed logic of Shakespeare sounded just as confusing back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but that's a can of worms I already opened. Contrarily, I understand that this language is aimed to better the understanding of the work and context as a whole, although it may sacrifice literal understanding of the word itself.

Receiving these lifelong skills makes forgoing the use of SparkNotes almost worth it. Spending hours reading for the sake of complete understanding becomes quite an appealing option. And, again, fully comprehending the text will lead to many other useful skills that will certainly come in handy later in life.

English teachers, thank you for all you have done for us BHS students. There are many aspects of school that are apparent to us everyday, however, these portions of class are typically the ones we have the most persistent problems with. That's exactly how I felt about the endlessly tiring days of my English career at BHS until I got over how pointless all the texts were, and began to focus on what I did with those readings that would prove most fruitful. Although the English teachers receive an immense amount of whining and complaining regarding the assignments, know that one day, maybe soon, we all will appreciate it.