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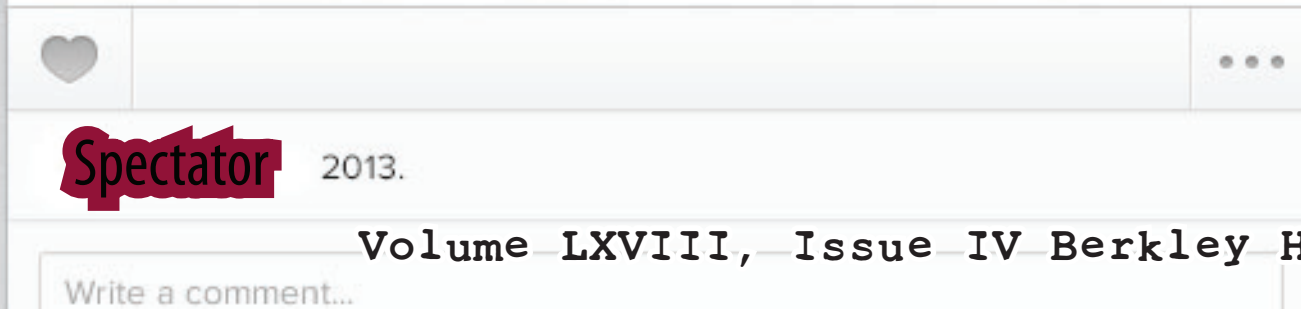


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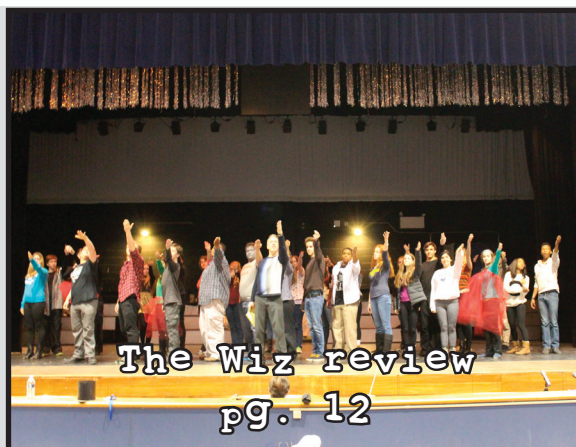


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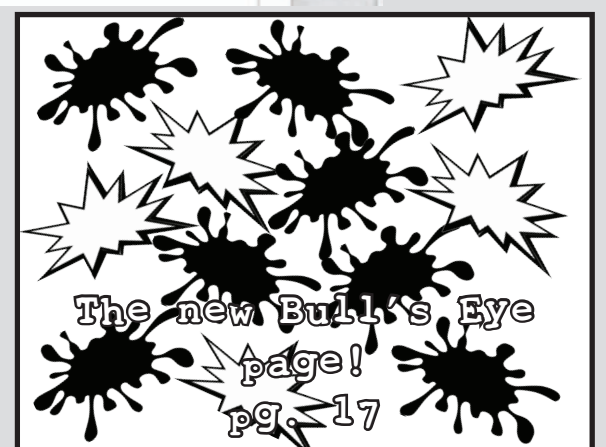


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JANUARY HOROSCOPES

Corey Lipton '16, Staff Medium

Aries: March 21 - April 19

I would suggest that all of you Aries keep your head up, metaphorically and literally. Keeping your head up will make you happier, so why not do it?

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

The moons of Jupiter are aligning in a strange way for you, Taurus. You will fall in love, but it may be with someone whose love is forbidden, like a family member. Good luck handling a situation as awkward as that.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You will come into some money in the near future. Whether or not you legally come into the money is questionable, so just watch out for the police.

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Much like Bilbo Baggins, you will be swept up into something you probably do not belong in, but you will probably grow as a person because of this adventure. If not, at least you will miss some school.

Leo: July 23 - August 23

Try and pay attention to your dreams this month. Slowly but surely, your dreams will start to become reality. If you can control your dreams, you will be in luck this lunar cycle.

Virgo: August 24 - September 23

This month, you will discover a deep secret about someone close to you. For example, you may find out you might actually be friends with Batman. This is the type of secrets that will be presented to you this month.

Libra: September 24 - October 22

Only travel by night. The day will blow your cover which will result in imminent death. It may seem strange, but you must not be seen by the public eye. It would be in your best interest to lay low for a while.

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Don't ever give it up, don't ever let them down, and don't ever run around and desert them. Don't ever make them cry, don't ever say goodbye, and don't ever tell a lie to hurt them. You just got rick-rolled.

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

Over the next four weeks people will try to take advantage of you. If you let them, you may or may not end up alone, in a dark cave, without one of your kidneys.

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

Beware of the abominable snowman for the next few weeks, he has had a taste of Capricorn, and he likes it. Make sure to send your friends around corners before you go because you never know where the big AS will be.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

Don't fall victim to peer pressure. All your friends may be doing it, but that does not mean you have to. If all your friends jumped off of a bridge, well you probably would anyways, so fall victim to peer pressure, I guess.

Pisces February 19 - March 20

You have been meaning to catch up on something for a while now. Whether it is your sleep schedule or your school work, do it. You deserve it and it will help improve your overall mood.

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The Spectator Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: look for senior Gabe Gedda-Shaheen and junior Noah Witus hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Gedda-Shaheen and Witus are! 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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YouTube's end may be near

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

When it was founded in 2005, YouTube was simply revolutionary. The ability to create and share videos across the globe was, and still is, an excellent tool for exercising the right to free speech. Each month more than one billion users watch over six billion hours of content, and an astounding 100 hours of video are uploaded every hour.

Over time, certain users and organizations began to gain larger and larger followings of subscribers. This inevitably led to YouTube becoming a place for people to make money with advertising, and there are now people whose job it is to upload videos on a regular basis. Many even predicted that YouTube could lead to the end of television because it grants people the ability to watch what they want, whenever they want, for free.

Recently, however, YouTube has changed for the worse. This comes about as a result of being owned by Google; the web giant also has a social networking site called Google+. The problem with this is that not many people use Google+ because they have already established their profiles on other social networking platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In an attempt to bring people to Google+, Google has resorted to force. They changed their successful website, YouTube, so that people could no longer simply have a YouTube account; it would have to be linked to their Google+ account. When this strategy did not change how many people used Google+, Google further strengthened its integration with YouTube. Specifically, they required a sign in to Google+ in order to post comments on videos. This defeats one of the stated goals of YouTube by reducing the number of viewers that are able to discuss and state

their views. Many gave in and signed up to Google+ in order to again comment on YouTube videos, only to find that Google had drastically changed how the comments system worked. Comments are now shown based on their relevancy to the users' Google+ circles. In other words, comments are sorted automatically, so the comments by people who may not be as "connected" via Google+ do not get their voice heard. While it is true that with the old system there were often many comments that some would deem blatantly offensive, the fact remains that all people have a right to free speech. Controlling who gets heard based on the connections they have on a social networking platform is simply a violation of this right.

In addition to restricting people's ability to express their views of the world, Google has also become involved with another massive problem on YouTube: Google modified YouTube's system that checks for copyright violations. The problem with this new system is that it scans videos for matches of content and is automated. What this means is that even if a video is legally using copyrighted material, it can get flagged because the system finds a match in audio or video. The copyright flag means that until the content is altered, or the violation decision appealed, no money can be made on the video. While this is effective at stopping illegal copyright infringements, when videos are wrongfully flagged, this system causes content producers to lose money on videos that often take hours or even days to make. Furthermore, a channel gets shut down after three strikes; having an automated system make copyright infringement decisions leaves room for errors to occur that are harmful to content creators.

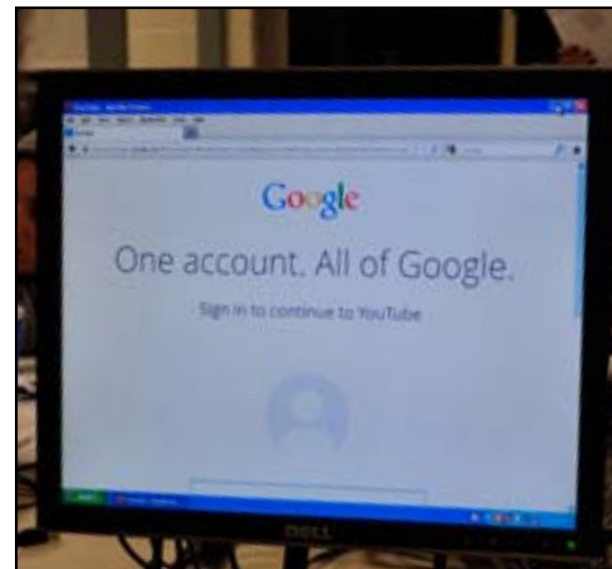


Photo by Tyler Eldridge

A typical screen that you must go through to get in YouTube.

The evidence that Google is damaging YouTube is undeniable. By hurting content creators that are operating within the bounds of the law and by severely damaging the comments section by granting access exclusively to the users of Google+, the free speech that YouTube was once a powerful advocate for has now begun to be increasingly diminished. This has pushed many people away from the site, and unless changes are made soon, YouTube is likely to lose its popularity, and may even lose its relevancy in the coming years.

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years later

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

It has been just over 50 years since Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in August 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. More than 250,000 people were in attendance, and it is widely considered the climax of the American Civil Rights Movement. This modern leader, born 85 years ago, on Jan. 15, 1929 is remembered for his courageous efforts working for the advancement of civil rights and equality for minorities. "I think that [King] was such an amazing leader; he didn't just open the door to equality based off of race, but he also opened the door to [equal opportunities for women] in my opinion and I am grateful for that," counselor Mrs. Lori Bullis said.

While his vision is still somewhat incomplete, King's actions, more than 45 years after his shocking assassination at age 39 by a shooter on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee made a better and brighter future not just for African Americans and other minorities but for all Americans. No sacrifice was greater and no leader left a more lasting legacy than the Baptist minister from the south.

Despite facing remarkable violence against himself and others in his movement, King remained committed to change through civil disobedience in keeping with his Christian faith. "I think Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man because he gave a very good model of how to be a passive resistor, or in other words he showed that you do not have to fight fire with fire, you can do it peacefully and still win the cause," media specialist Mrs. Martha Spear said.

In recognition of the world-wide attention and progress his movement was achieving through his non-violent advocacy, King was awarded the Nobel Peace

Prize in 1964. King's most widely recognized civil disobedience project was the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 started after Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to move to the back of the bus to allow more seating for white passengers. The very bus she was riding is now a permanent part of our local history as an exhibit at The Henry Ford Museum. The boycott was extremely effective and gained a great deal of attention and sympathy for King's movement ultimately resulting in a Federal court ruling that such laws were unconstitutional.

King's wisdom lives on to this day. When we are facing a challenge, no matter what the odds of success seem to be, we need to keep pushing forward. As King once said, "If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But keep moving, keep moving forward."



Martin Luther King Jr. giving his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to end his march to Washington D.C.

Photo courtesy of wikimedia commons

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Colorado begins sale of recreational marijuana

William Shulak '16, Staff Writer

On Jan. 1, or what is now dubbed as “Green Wednesday,” recreational marijuana was first sold to patrons at around 30 public dispensaries in Colorado. Even though the recreational use and possession of marijuana was legalized in 2012 in Colorado, it was not available for sale until the start of this year.

Like alcohol, marijuana is only available to customers 21 and over and will be heavily taxed at a rate of about 29 percent. Colorado residents can purchase and possess up to one ounce of the substance, while non-residents can purchase and have up to a quarter ounce on them. It is estimated that millions of dollars in taxes will be raised by the state of Colorado this year.

The popularity of the new pot shops was monumental, with lines of people that seemed never ending the first day of sales. Customers came from all over the United States and other countries to take part in the legal sale of marijuana for recreational use.

Out of the total 136 licensed shops in Colorado, a large number are located in the state’s capital city of Denver. These shops are legally the only public places where there should be any recreational marijuana sale and activity. According to official state laws, Marijuana cannot be used in public places, such as the famous “coffeeshops” in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The first person to buy the recreational approved product was Iraq war veteran Sean Azzariti who said in an article from CNN, “This is what we [Veterans] worked so hard for the last few years.” Azzariti has post-traumatic stress disorder, and under Colorado law, he was unable to legally obtain medical marijuana for PTSD.

It will be interesting to see the events that will unfold after the takeoff after Colorado’s marijuana business. The sale of recreational marijuana will take place later this year in Washington State, which has also legalized the recreational use of marijuana. With 19 other states having legalized the use for medical marijuana, the US’s pot agenda could change drastically in the coming years.



The capitol building in Denver where the legislation was passed.

Photo courtesy of wikimedia commons

Going green: Environmental club envisions a cleaner tomorrow

Cameron Cece '16, Staff Writer

Air pollution, toxins, and global warming are all topics heard about on a daily basis. Here at BHS, science teacher Mr. Andrew Bruen and environmental club members are launching large attacks on environmental issues from within our school.

The club originated in 2006 when a group of very concerned and active students wanted to take action against environmental issues the school faces on a day to day basis. The group reached out to Bruen and he was on board from the very first mention of the club. “It was really great to see kids happy to help and stand up for something,” Bruen said. He has now run the club for eight straight years leaving it within the students’ hands to change the school for better.

In the past years students have tried to make the club more notable and recognizable with many advertisements and discussing solutions to these hefty environmental issues. Last year environmental club was putting a stop to problems like littering and waste of recyclable materials by delivering recycling bins to every classroom. “The students are very passionate about the club and have great attitudes about what they do,” Bruen said. The students are working very hard to create an environmentally sound school, and they hope to do more throughout the school year. In 2014 the club will hopefully be able to see a greater impact and continue to keep BHS green. See Mr. Bruen or a club member for more information.

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New teachers take BHS by storm

William Shulak '16, Staff Writer and Bennett Hart '16, Sports Editor

With several new teachers instructing a variety of subjects and although it is the middle of the year, the *Spectator* wanted to take the opportunity to give them a proper introduction. These new additions to the staff are ready to share their thoughts and feelings on teaching, life, the community and BHS.

Mr. Craig Riesen

Although there is a brand new science teacher at BHS, he definitely is not new to teaching. Mr. Craig Riesen has been a high school teacher for 22 years, teaching a variety of different science classes. Right now, Riesen is teaching geophysical science, a class that is new to him, so he has been going through transitioning, he said, "I would like to try [the transition] again. I came to BHS under some peculiar circumstances." Luckily, Riesen spends a ton of time preparing for class, he said, "I am kind of OCD about doing a good job so I put in loads of hours to prepare and give students a good product." Once Riesen is fully settled in, he intends on attending extracurriculars such as sporting events and concerts. Riesen said, "The community has welcomed me and I appreciate everyone." It sounds like Mr. Riesen is fitting in nicely to his new environment.



Ms. Christina Cannon

Stepping into biology and geophysical sciences at BHS is the first of two additions to the science department. "I feel that it is interesting to think about how everything works. You look at DNA and you can see how to create a person, and you can see plants growing," Mrs. Christina Cannon said. Cannon attended Central Michigan University where she obtained a major in biology, minor in health, and got her degree in secondary education. Besides teaching, she enjoys traveling and camping, and she hopes to go to Alaska someday. Cannon has attended several school activities, and hopes to see The Wiz and visit several sporting events. Joking with her students is a fun quality of Cannon. There is an on-going joke with her pupils is that she is Canadian, even though she is not.



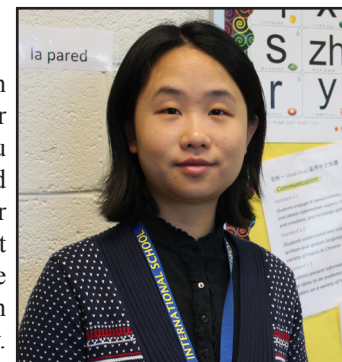
Ms. Samantha Esper

BHS has also added a very versatile teacher who is young and relatively new to teaching. Over the past five years Ms. Samantha Esper has graduated from Eastern Michigan University, taught at a high school in Texas, and then came back to teach in Michigan before coming to BHS. Currently, Esper teaches chemistry and geometry; she is very versatile in the sense that she can teach both science and math. She believes her transition has gone smoothly, and she thanks everyone for helping her ease into this new environment, but Esper, similarly to Riesen, said she is still excited to participate in the community in the future. Esper said, "I am still getting familiar to the area. I'm from Canton and I still live there, so adjusting to the community has been tough." She added, "I look forward to participating in more school functions and exploring the area more in the summertime."



Mrs. Yanyu Ward

The new Mandarin Chinese teacher was born in China and worked as English-Chinese interpreter before she came to the United States. Mrs. Yanyu Ward has been in the U.S. for seven years and has been professionally teaching in the states for five years. The combination of staff and student hospitality has made Ward feel very welcome at BHS. Ward also attended a staff party which helped her get accustomed to the community. "Besides teaching, I enjoy cooking both American and Chinese cuisine," Ward said. She plans on incorporating cooking into her curriculum. Even though she enjoys the class she teaches, Ward would like to have Chinese II students as well as more Chinese I students. Ward looks forward to the new experience while working here and at Norup International.



Photos by Zoe Lask

Although the new teachers at BHS are still adjusting to the new school, they seem to be taking the steps necessary to becoming long term teachers at BHS. For this reason we are glad to be able to officially introduce these new teachers to everyone at BHS.

Marching to success

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

This upcoming 2014-2015 school year, two new drum majors will be introduced into the BHS marching band family. The two new inductees are junior Jaylin Herskovitz and freshman Jacob Hook. There was much anticipation surrounding who would replace the former drum majors, seniors David Pellerito and Allison Archambault. Finally, a decision has been made.

The two new drum majors were chosen after extensive evaluation on both their musical skills and leadership abilities. During the application process, each band member applying for the open drum major positions were required to firstly, write an essay on why the students believed they were the most capable to take on the responsibility of leading the band through performances. If their essays were deemed acceptable, the applicants were then interviewed, and presented a speech in front of the entire band class who then later voted on their two favoring replacements for drum majors.



Photo by Zoe Lask

These soon to be drum majors eagerly await their big moment.

Though this may seem like a daunting task, both Herskovitz and Hook managed to overcome the challenge to ultimately be elected to fill the positions as drum major.

Hook believes that he and Herskovitz will bring about a positive change to the band. "I feel like Jaylin and I will bring a lot of exciting energy and also an inspiration to do our best during performances," Hook said. Herskovitz feels similarly. Herskovitz said, "I want to add to the optimism that we already have as a band and expand on that aspect we possess."

Both are nervous for the experience, but they are thrilled to be able to have such a great opportunity to make the band even more outstanding than it is already known to be.

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Robotics rules

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer

The robotics team build awesome mechanical contraptions. Though the BHS student body is most likely to see the robots they have built at school functions, other machines that the team designs are specifically made to compete in competitions.

The BHS robotics team competes in two different competitions throughout the school year. Within these competitions, 40 high school robotics teams from all around Michigan are joined to form groups that they will compete together in at state tournaments. The goal of these competitions is to be a part of the winning eight teams that hold the top scores. This will then allow the teams to go on and finally compete in the elimination rounds that will determine the overall winning alliance.

A lot of planning goes into the preparation and the building of the robots for the competitions. Junior Josie Gabel, a first year member of the robotics team, explains the process. "Firstly, we have to come up with a design," Gabel said. "Once we have that, we have to test that design, program it, and make sure it is working properly and is completely ready to compete in the competitions. Then, after that, comes the team strategizing."

Overall, the BHS robotics team has been a success at competitions. Gabel recalls that their most successful competition was at Grand Blanc last year where they were chosen to be in the first alliance along with two other leading Michigan robotics teams. During that competition, they took first place. Beyond state tournaments, there is also a chance to compete with teams from all different kinds of nations in competitions known as worlds.

With the robotics team's success and great team dynamic, Gabel encourages those interested in joining the robotics team to get involved. "It doesn't matter if you are interested in engineering or not," Gabel said. "We have so many other tasks and jobs for people interested in robotics to do as well like programming, and advertising for the teams, don't hesitate to come and check out our team."

If you're interested in participating in the robotics team for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year, contact Gabel or any other members of the team to get information on how to join.

Millenium Monday

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Business/Ad manager

Picture this: girls are not walking down the hallway with lulus on, the "selfie" has yet to be coined, and the iPhone 5s is still just a dream. How different was the educational experience 15-20 years ago? Today, there are different styles of clothing, new technology in the classroom, and new distractions that help differentiate the BHS of today from the BHS of a decade or two ago.

1. Different clothing: Even though 90s style is pretty much back, known as "soft grunge," original 90's fashion is still pretty different. In warm weather, it is not unusual to see girls trying to remain under the administrative radar in the halls, because they know they would fail the fingertip test. If a girl is caught wearing too short of shorts, the consequence is wearing those hideous warm-up sweats. Although the fingertip test has always existed for a while, back in the 90s the spotlight was more on girls with bare mid-drift. "You would get to put on a baggy shirt," English teacher Mr. Paul Cierpial said, who has taught in the district since 1992. People were even sent home sometimes, depending on who was principal at the time. "If you would not want me to wear it, do not wear it either," science teacher Mr. Scott Doty said to warn the kids of today. Lululemon leggings, which both boys and girls enjoy, are currently the typical type of "pants." On the contrary, in the 90s girls and boys usually wore baggy "parachute" pants, which are not as appealing today. There was also not as much of a distraction regarding clothing back in the 90s as there is today.

2. New distractions: Words that you can count on hearing every day are 'put your phone away' or 'take your earbuds out.' Students are always on their phones, and constantly listening to music. While in the 90s, the biggest distraction that was occurring was probably just a little tamagotchi needing to be fed. These phones and the music result in more multitasking which lowers the quality of work the students are capable of producing. "[Multitasking] shows up in students writing, where there is a greater degree of certain disjointedness," Cierpial said. While iPhones are a blast, there is a direct correlation between playing on them while doing homework, and the quality of work that is turned in compared to the students of 15 years ago.

3. New technology: In today's high school generation, new technology in the classroom has made learning more efficient and even fun. Back then, the addition of phones in the classroom was a huge technological advancement. Now, websites such as Edmodo allow students to communicate their thoughts or ideas in a way that they do not actually have to verbalize. "[Technology] allows us to have discussions in a way we wouldn't be able to have otherwise, and it allows kids who are more reluctant to participate to speak up," Cierpial said. Even though using technology can be a lot of confusing work, it helps the learning experience and makes school easier on the students today, as opposed to the students from the 90s.

tumblr beneath the surface

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Business/Ad Manager

From an outsider's view, Tumblr, the famed picture blogging site, is no more than, well, a place to post photos. Most consider the website to be "hipster" as it is the domain where people reblog pictures of Tumblr famous people and Dr. Martins. However, there are some users who eat, sleep and breathe Tumblr. For this to be the case, there has to be something more to the website than just looking through a bunch of random pictures. So what is Tumblr really? Well, there are actually many interesting aspects to Tumblr and the way that it is used.

The most common way Tumblr is used, actually happens to have nothing to do with hipsters or chai tea. A lot of teenagers use it for what they call "fanfiction." Fanfiction stories are mostly a romantic fiction story based off of any sort of celebrity or band that users can reblog. They are most often written by extreme fans of that person or subject and are a frequent user of Tumblr. Fanfiction is work produced by fans of an original work that may develop new plotline or creates romantic relationships beyond what the original story contained. A lot of Tumblr junkies may spend their time reading the stories on the blogs they are most interested in. A very popular topic to write or read fanfiction about

is *Harry Potter*. "I have actually read a couple *Harry Potter* fanfiction," sophomore Erin Tripp said. Fanfictions are a unique way to portray someone's love for a subject through a creative outlet.

Another interesting way that Tumblr is used is for peoples so called "fandoms." Many Tumblers express their obsessions of music, people, book and shows by using their Tumblr to create or look at fandoms that intrigue them. Fandoms are blogs that are revolve around a certain topic, such as *Doctor Who* or One Direction. They let users to vent about what they love with people who understand and share the same interests. "People use [Tumblr] as a type of diary to vent with other people," sophomore Lauren Angel said. A good portion of people use Tumblr for pictures, but a lot are able to expose their love for something they might not be able to express otherwise.

What Tumblr users would most like people to know is that Tumblr does not have to only be used by a certain type of people. Anyone can use the site for generally anything, despite whether they are considered a hipster or not. It is a place where people can be themselves and express what is important to them.

Mr. Weingarden's calculator: where is it now?

Corey Lipton '16, News Editor

Anyone who has spoken to BHS's beloved math teacher, Mr. Steve Weingarden in the past year knows the legend of the stolen calculator. Last year, Weingarden gave his third hour Algebra II class their first semester final exam; when the students walked into the room, he had his full set of calculators, but when class was dismissed, one had escaped. The missing calculator from room 265 has never been heard of... until now. The *Spectator* recorded an exclusive interview with the famously lost calculator.

Corey Lipton: Have you heard about all of the ruckus you caused?

Calculator: Yes, I have been following all of the chaos.

CL: What did you do after you left BHS?

C: When I left Mr. Weingarden's room, I stayed in the Berkley area for a bit, but with all the fuss Mr. Weingarden's class was making, it just was not safe for me anymore.

CL: Where did you move to then?

C: I called a cab for the airport, and I boarded the first flight I saw to New York. This was back when the NHL was still in a lockout, so I found my way to the head offices of the NHL in New York City where the heated negotiations were taking place, and I offered the final solution to get the players back on the ice.

CL: Wow, that must have been the greatest thing you have ever done.

C: Not as great as some of the logarithms I have solved.

CL: After you resolved the NHL lockout, what did you do then?

C: I headed down to New Orleans to watch Super Bowl XLVII, but I could not find my seat. As I was wandering around hopelessly, I found the main power source in the Superdome, and lets just say it was one of my darker days.

CL: After that you must have been scared they would find you and return you right?

C: I was, I immediately left America after the Super Bowl.

CL: Where did you end up?

C: I flew to Rome, I have always wanted to have an authentic Italian pizza.

CL: How was Rome? What did you do?

C: In Rome, I took a bunch of tours. One of them took me into Vatican City where I snuck away from my tour. It is a funny story actually, I stumbled upon the Papal Conclave, you know, the group who selects a new Pope. Cardinal Francis and I actually go way back, but anyways, with my guidance the Cardinals chose my life-long friend as the new Pope. Who would have thought?

CL: You have really done some great things, Mr. Calculator.

C: Some would say that, but others, would say that my past owner, Mr. Weingarden has done even better things.

CL: What is the most important thing you have done?

C: I was with my bud, Edward Snowden, when he leaked those confidential documents. I stayed with him while he was at the Russian airport.

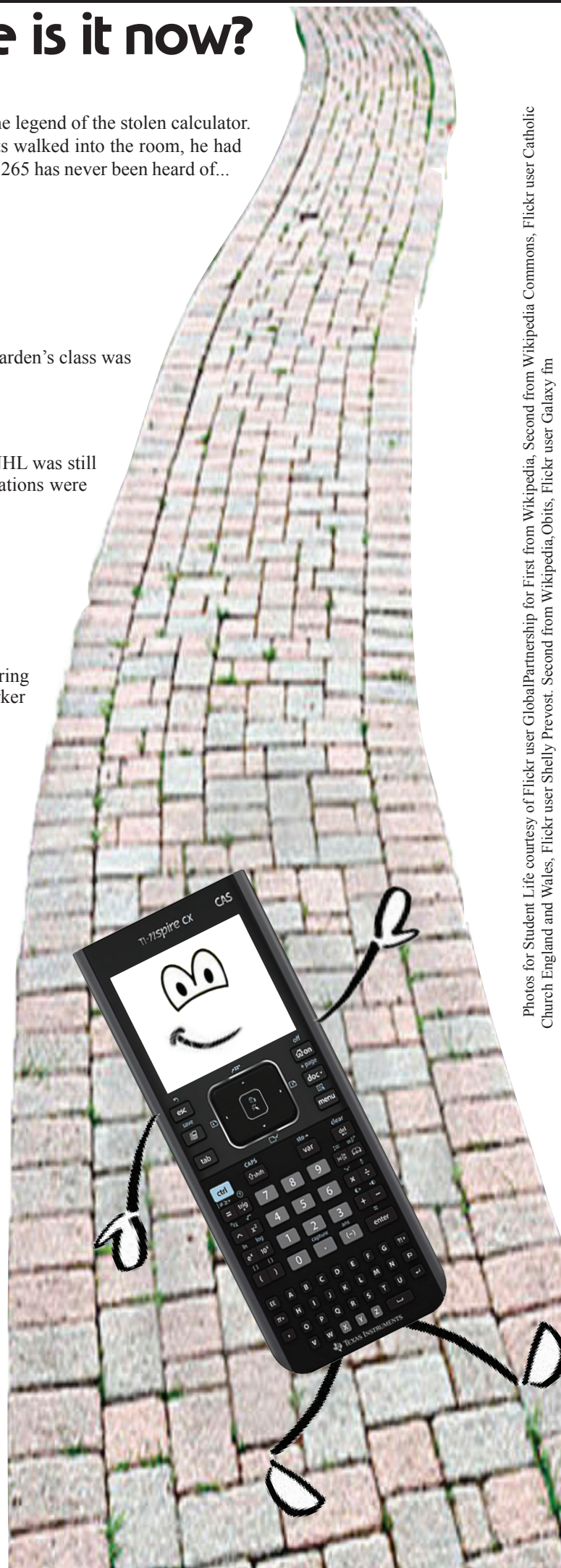
CL: Where are you now?

C: After all those adventures, I figured I would settle down. I bought a farm in Tennessee and that is where I am right now.

CL: Do you miss Mr. Weingarden at all?

C: I do think of him fondly from time to time. I did enjoy the simple life I once lived, but I have moved on.

CL: At least you are happy, and it has been great talking to you.



A year in review 2013

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

Who we greeted

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina ascended the papacy under the new name of Pope Francis. He is the first non-european Pope since Syrian Pope Gregory III, 1272 years ago. His views on many prominent issues in the Catholic Church are drastically different from many of his predecessors, sending messages of peace, acceptance and tolerance. Perhaps the most radical of which are his views on homosexuality among Catholics, "If someone is gay and he searches for the lord and good will, who am I to judge?" Pope Francis said. In his Christmas address, he called for peace in the Middle East and Africa. He was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2013.



What made us laugh... and cry

Five-year-old Miles Scott fought crime in the streets of San Francisco dressed as the "Batkid" in November. Scott was diagnosed with Leukemia when he was 18 months old. Through the Make-A-Wish foundation, San Francisco was transformed into Gotham City for a day with Batkid protecting the streets and its citizens. The miniature Caped Crusader saved the San Francisco Giants mascot Lou Seal from his nemesis, and thwarted the Penguin's plan to rob the bank at 550 Montgomery Avenue. Over 20,000 people came out in support of Batkid, and the mayor proclaimed that Nov. 15 will forever be "Batkid Day."



What shocked the world

Former CIA Intelligence officer Edward Snowden leaked documents detailing the surveillance the United States government was performing on its citizens and various countries around the world. The documents showed that the National Security Agency was collecting and data mining streams of information from the emails and texts of the US public, as well as bugging the offices and embassies of numerous allied diplomats. The information was leaked on the website Wikileaks and published in the English newspaper The Guardian. Snowden fled to Hong Kong shortly after the documents were leaked, then to Russia, where he was confined to the Moscow airport for three months before being granted temporary political asylum there. The US government considers Snowden a fugitive, and charged him with espionage and theft of government property. The surveillance has shocked and angered many, plummeting the approval ratings of Congress and President Obama. The legislatures and the president largely consider such surveillance a necessary limitation of freedom in favor of national security. Edward Snowden is held as a patriot to some, a traitor to others.



Who we bid farewell

- Anti-apartheid revolutionary and former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela died on Dec. 5 at the age of 95 following complications with his lung health in his home in Johannesburg, South Africa. Mandela conducted the overhaul of the racist government of South Africa and has served as one of the world's most effective statesmen.
- The first woman prime minister of Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher died on April 8 at the age of 87 after suffering a stroke. She was a controversial figure for most of her tenure in office, some calling her a strong and effective leader, and others denouncing her degree of political power, comparing it to that of a dictator.
- The controversial president of Venezuela Hugo Chavez died on March 5 at the age of 58 of a heart attack and related cancer. Chavez's anti-imperialist and socialist policies rendered him one of the most controversial politicians in recent memory while giving rise to equally strong following and opposition.
- Actor James Gandolfini died on June 19 at the age of 51 of a heart attack. He was revered most for his role as mafia boss Tony Soprano in the popular television show The Sopranos, which won him three Emmys and a Golden Globe.
- Author Tom Clancy died on Oct. 1 at the age of 66 for undisclosed reasons. Clancy was best known for his extremely detailed historical fiction novels about espionage and military science during the Cold War.
- Author Ned Vizzini died on Dec. 19 at the age of 32 of suicide. Vizzini wrote popular young adult novels, including *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. His works, focusing mainly on depression in teenagers, have been hugely influential and popular among young adults.



What made us just cry



On April 15, two bombs exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing four and injuring 264 others. The identity of the attackers is not important, but rather those affected. Twenty nine -year-old Krystle Campbell, 23-year-old Lingzi Lu, 26-year-old Sean Collier, and 8-year-old Martin William Richard were killed in the blast. The Boston Police Department was quick and efficient in tracking down the perpetrators, killing one and bringing the other into custody by April 19. In this horrendous circumstance, the good in people shone. The community was drawn together with a greater sense of unity and strength. Runners who had just finished the marathon ran another few blocks to donate blood at the local hospital immediately following the attack. Following the closure of several hotels in the area in response to the bombing, Boston residents opened their homes to visitors with nowhere to stay during the time of crisis. As with all tragic occurrences, there is always good to be found.

What brought the world together

Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban on her way home from school in Pakistan on Oct. 9, 2012. On July 12, 2013, the day she turned 16, Yousafzai made a presentation to the United Nations about the struggles of women and children without education in the world. Since, she has toured the world spreading her message of equality, specifically focusing on women's rights and enabling all children in the world to receive an education. For her extensive work in public awareness and education availability and equality, she received a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. Yousafzai is an inspiration to the entire world. Average citizens and people of power alike are emboldened by her story of perseverance, leadership, and courage.



2013 brought great change and progress to this world and the meaningful events listed here merely scratches the surface of the meaningful events we saw this year. But it is just as important to look forward as it is to look back. So here's to a successful and prosperous 2014.

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Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

On Jan. 16-19 the BHS drama department performed their version of *The Wiz*. The show was a hit.

Many people know the basic story of *The Wizard of Oz*, but if you have forgotten, the characters all desire some change in themselves. Dorothy wants to get home, the scarecrow yearns for a brain, the tin man desires a heart, and the lion seeks courage. All of them think they require the help of the Wiz, a great and powerful wizard. But while on their journey to the Emerald City they overcome adversity and find within themselves the very thing they were searching for.

The Wiz is a variation on the familiar *Wizard of Oz* story with an updated musical score. Often it is presented with an all African American cast, and there are some liberties taken with the plot lines, but the overall theme is the same, except for a few additional characters, such as Addaperle, Gilda's funkier sister, and Evillene, who is basically the wicked witch of the west yet still different. The Broadway version of *The Wiz* opened in October 1975, with actors and entertainers Stephanie Mills as Dorothy, Hinton Battle as the Scarecrow, Tiger Haynes as the Tin Man, and Ted Ross as the Cowardly Lion.

Just like the story, the BHS drama department have put their heads together and worked hard, overcome difficulty (Five snow days lead to a loss of rehearsal) while preparing for the show too, and delivered a great musical production with brains, heart, and courage.

From the opening scene, featuring Auntie Em played by sophomore Chloe Olivia, Uncle Henry played by junior Andrew McIntire, Dorothy played by senior Emily Bailey and Toto played by Romeo Mendelson, the audience was hooked. The most well known scenes, like when the Wicked Witch of the West is killed, or when Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Man ease on down the yellow brick road, were all done perfectly.

Lead performers Bailey, senior Justin Rogers, sophomore Griffin Palmer, sophomore Alex Morrison and junior Jacob Chaiken all did their parts exquisitely, and the rest of the cast as well. Along with their spectacular acting, singing and dancing, there were additional amazing song performances from sophomore Haley Ceresnie, freshmen Emily Muench, and junior Lily Queen. An admirable overall stage was developed by crew members, junior Bailey McMillian, senior April Tomson, sophomore Caleb Matthews, sophomore Jessi McAlpine and everyone else who participated in crew. And who could forget the graceful dances from senior Andrea Megroet, junior Logan Donnelly, sophomore Erin Colling and each of the other dancers?

In *The Wizard of Oz* film, we are told to pay no attention to the man behind the curtain, but unlike the story, director John Hopkins clearly had the cast and crew paying attention to him as he prepared the actors for the show. The result was a strong performance that captivated the audience as if Glinda the Good Witch had cast a spell on them.

To everyone who was a part of *The Wiz*, bravo!



Sophomore Alex Morrison flashes a smile before opening night.

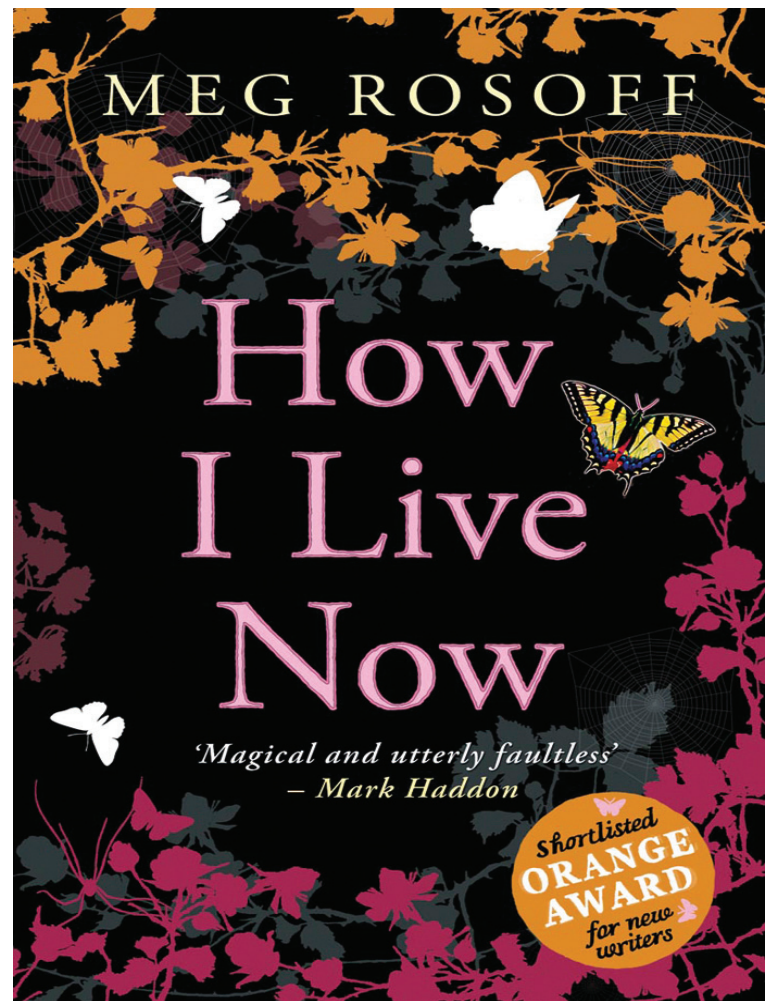
WHAT TO READ

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff is a fantastically contrary and enjoyable book to read if you need a short book for an English class review due in a few days, or if you are just looking for a quick book to get lost in. The story follows the life of Daisy, a 14-year-old American girl who is sent to live in the English countryside with her late mother's sister. Soon after her arrival, a war erupts and England becomes occupied by an unnamed enemy. The occupation comes when her aunt is abroad in Oslo, Norway, leaving the children alone to care for themselves. Soon, Daisy finds herself falling in love with her cousin Edmond. Strange, yes, but the intriguing nature of the story makes readers willing to overlook it. She discovers the feeling is mutual, and they enjoy a couple of weeks together before they are evacuated and separated. At this point, the tone changes to a story of loss and the story shifts to the road the cousins must take to return home.

The novel is full of captivating characters, such as Daisy's younger cousin, Piper. Piper is a young girl with an alluring and angelic essence to her, with knowledge and wisdom that exceeds her years. Edmond seems to always know what anyone wants to say before they do. Isaac, Edmond's twin, has a mysterious understanding of animals. He rarely speaks, but in the occurrence that he does, no word is wasted. In contrast, Daisy is the character that the audience relates to; she is a relatively average American teen, somewhat lost in the world and in who she is and wants to be.

The book provides many things that audiences desire in a romantic comedy. There is ample romance and comic relief. Moments occur that make one laugh, some that make the tears flow, and some that just intrigue and even bewilder the reader. There are elements of danger and adventure as the war rages on. The book fits the highly specific genre of harshly realistic, relatable, tragic teen romance-comedy novels that the wildly popular *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green occupies. It is written in an enchanting and in exhaustive voice that will hook you until the very end. At 192 pages, *How I Live Now* is one of those books that is picked up and isn't put down until there is a satisfying finish for every character.



Photos courtesy of Weetzie Bat



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

BEYONCÉ IS STILL ON TOP

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

On Dec. 13, 2013, Beyoncé Knowles shocked the world when she released her latest album with no prior warning. While most people had no idea Beyoncé was even recording new material, she has revealed that she had 80 songs to choose from when creating her self-titled record. In an interview with CNBC, she admitted she recorded the release over a year ago, Beyoncé said, "I recorded about 80 songs, but it was the songs that were more effortless to me that stuck around."

One of the most special songs to the 32-year-old singer is "Drunk in Love", which she worked on with her husband, Jay-Z. "I free styled the verse and then Jay went in and he started flowing out his verse," she said.

Self-Titled is, "a mini art feature comprised of several parts that give a glimpse into BEYONCÉ. It details my mindset and artistic vision throughout the making of the entire project." She added, "We just kinda had to party. It wasn't about any ego, we weren't trying to make a hit record. We were just having fun, and I think you can hear that in the record."

Similarly, the video for the song, featuring her and Jay-Z on the beach together, is one of the artist's favorites. "This is probably the most down to earth shoot I've ever done," Beyoncé said. "It was so much fun; it was just us two on the beach and I loved it." Indeed, most of the videos from the album were planned on the spur of the moment, with perfectionist Beyoncé surprisingly loving the freedom. "I wanted to carry this idea of being in the moment and embracing mistakes and effortlessness into the videos. I wish every video was like 'Drunk in Love'," the artist said.

Although the record industry's popularity ratings are constantly changing from pop to rock to dubstep, Beyoncé has managed to stay on top. This was proven when her album sold a whopping 430,000 copies within the first 24 hours of its debut. And with her booming career, Beyoncé is also balancing raising her daughter, Blue Ivy. With focus and determination, it is clear that this star still has a bright future ahead.

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Bad weather, good movies

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

This movie told the story of a man named, as the title would imply, Walter Mitty played by Ben Stiller. In the beginning of the movie, Mitty's life is boring and uneventful. Contrary to his life, he constantly has vivid day dreams about exploits he wishes were actually happening. As the movie progresses, things that would have originally been day dreams become reality and Walter becomes a more adventurous person in his real life.

This is a feel-good film that leaves the viewer not only happy for Walter, but inspired to be the best version of themselves that they can be. This movie has the ability to inspire the viewer to be courageous, not necessarily jumping into the ocean from a helicopter or climbing a mountain alone, but to do things that one would not otherwise do in their everyday life. Along with this strong message to viewers, there is comedy sprinkled throughout the film which adds to the already light-hearted feel of the film. *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* is a movie that one could take their entire family to see because all ages can relate to the film's humorous and thoughtful storyline.

AMERICAN HUSTLE

American Hustle is a film with an entertaining story, amazing acting, and witty dialogue. It has won many awards, including Golden Globe for best comedy. Amy Adams and Christian Bale play two con artists, Sydney Prosser and Irving Rosenfeld, who are in love. Irving is an overweight, middle aged man with a most impressive comb over, and Sydney is a small time girl who pretends to be a sophisticated British woman named Edith. The pair gets busted by Richie DiMasio (Bradley Cooper), an FBI agent. In an effort to avoid punishment, Irving and Sydney make a deal with the FBI to help them catch corrupt politicians and mafia members.

The plot is fairly predictable, but the dialogue is what makes the movie a success. Jennifer Lawrence, who plays the wife of Irving, is a manipulative and emotional character who infuriates the audience, while they still love the unreasonable things she says. Throughout the film, there are moments of suspense when one cannot anticipate what will happen next. While the film is about con artists planning to catch corrupt politicians, the focus is more on the characters and how their personal lives change as the plot unravels.

Photos courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Atlas Entertainment

Normal Activity: How to kill a genre

Jenna McClure '16, Publicity Director

On Jan. 5 theaters had released *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones* Yes, another paranormal film has come out ... again. Although it is a new year, it is the same plot for the overused movie series. The Waunakee Tribute the movie two out of five stars and IMDb rated it six out of 10 stars because it was relating back to the predictable theme that was used in each movie before.

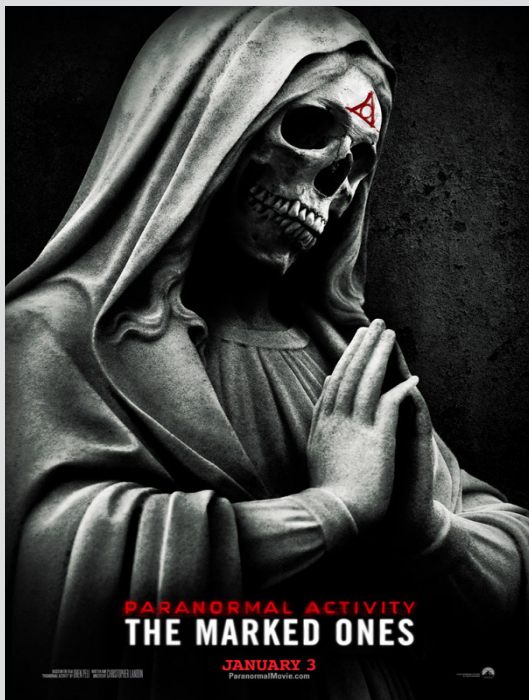


Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

In 2007, the first *Paranormal Activity* was released. The film revolves around a young couple who moved in together and started to experience paranormal activity that continuously took the turn for the worse. It was pretty scary to most when it first came out. "I thought it was terrifying but looking back at it, it actually wasn't that scary," sophomore Alyssa Crossley said.

But as the more paranormal movies came out following years, the more predictable they became. Sophomore Jenna Krieger said, "The series is stupid because of how it's organized." The plots of the movies are always the same. A family moves in and tells a back story that will relate to the previous movie. Then footage is taken through the house because "weird" things that are unexplainable are happening. They eventually find out it's a ghost. The occurrences get worse when they try to interfere. Viewers see quick glimpses of the family and in the end, someone dies. One or more of the family make it out alright just in time for a "cliff hanger."

Now the fifth movie in the series came out, and nothing new is to be expected. People know by now that the good parts in the trailer are the only good parts in the entire movie. Especially with this new one, the actors are very weak. It is no longer a scary movie, but a pathetic horror movie that has people laughing. Sophomore Chloe Church said, "I actually like the *Paranormal Activity* movie. They make me laugh." But the *Paranormal Activity* movies just keeps getting worse as they go, and they need to put an end to the predictable series.



AUTHORS STEAL FROM SPARKNOTES, STUDENT SAYS

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

A BHS senior was in complete awe when he discovered the connection between books and SparkNotes last Friday.

Senior Joshua Kaymin is a longtime fan of SparkNotes. "I've been reading SparkNotes for three years now, and would have never guessed these creative stories were stolen by some so-called writers," Kaymin said. Kaymin, who

is currently taking AP English

Literature and Composition,

admires the website for its original content. "They

always come up with such

interesting

and thought

provoking

stories,"

Kaymin

said, adding,

"There are so

many great

characters,

too."

During the break, Kaymin decided to read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, which to his astonishment was very similar to a SparkNotes page about *Animal Farm* he read his sophomore year. "This man [Orwell] stole most of the content from SparkNotes," Kaymin said. After his initial discovery, Kaymin decided to check Orwell's other works, which according

to the student were also plagiarized from SparkNotes. "This man is not a writer, he is a thief," Kaymin said.

However, Kaymin's shocking discoveries did not end there. "Turns out, other writers, such as Huxley and Vonnegut, also stole SparkNotes' original stories. How dare they?" The whole writing industry is based

off SparkNotes, concluded critical

literary consumer Kaymin. Other

students, who also have not

read a real book in a while, are

furious with writers for reusing

SparkNotes original

content. "Some guy

named Shakespeare

stole Hamlet from

the website. What

a disgrace," junior

Emily Thompson

said.

SparkNotes

declined the allegations

stating, "We are by no means creative. We

simply take literary classics, and break

them down to the basics for students so

that they'd understand it without wasting

the precious time on these silly books. It's

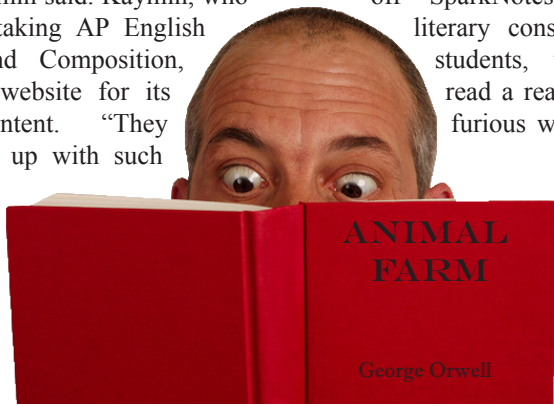
like instead of watching Titanic, we'd tell

you the ship has sunk and the movie was

about love." Meanwhile, students continue

to enjoy the rich narratives that SparkNotes

creates.



Old man re-enacts Kaymin's reaction to his discovery.

Photo courtesy of rdesh.net

TESTING ERRORS

Jake Kreinbring '16, Entertainment Editor

In an ever changing society, people are constantly altering how they think and interact with others. The world is continuously updating, and the only place this advancement is not detectable is in the way schools are testing kids on their knowledge. Teachers and schools still insist on throwing a pencil and a Scantron at students. Educators insist on the memorization of materials that teens have almost instant access to.

Kids walk around every day with a small rectangle in their pocket that has the ability to view all the information they could want and more. Students are told to steer clear of these, but they should rather be taught that these are tools are to be used that are always at their disposal. Instead of viewing phones as distractions and cheating devices, schools should look at them as a resource. As technology becomes more accessible so should the assessment of the intelligence of our youth. These tests should be updated to allow students to utilize their resources, because the simple fact is that as people advance further and further into the future, no test will ever truly be closed note.

It is understandable why educators may be against

this idea of changing tests to open note or group testing. Teachers may say that these alternatives does not assess our knowledge on the subject, but do the tests being administered now do so? BHS students, as well as students around the United States, spend the days before tests doing what is commonly known as cramming. They study extensively for hours on end, day after day, so they can simply spit out information to pass a test. After said test, they quickly erase the information in order to overload on information for the next test. Is this truly learning? As people advance into the future of education, tests must advance as well as the way people think and learn change.

Now, some may respond that these tests are being updated, and that one of these updated tests is called the Smarter Balance test. The Smarter Balance test is a possible replacement. However, simply putting a test on a computer is not where the future should be taking us. Changing the format does not change the material and how the test is taken. There is no simple fix for this problem, but some teachers are taking steps in the right direction to educating their classes as 21st century teenagers.

A GENERATION CONNECTED

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

If one were to ask any adult what their opinion is on teens and their cell phones, it is almost guaranteed that they will respond by saying something along the lines of, "This generation is too addicted to their cell phones!" It seems as if everyone in older generations feels the need to scold us on our addiction to technology. According to "them," we spend too much time texting and tweeting and not enough time actually interacting with people or going out and experiencing new things. These complaints are usually shrugged off—older generations just do not understand what they are talking about, or so we like to think. It may be difficult to admit, but it is safe to say that our generation is far more dependent on their iPhones than generations in the past have been. And while it is true that such technology was not around when other generations were growing up, the amount of time that teens and young adults spend on their phones today is alarming. No one can deny the importance that phones have in our everyday lives, so it is no wonder that they have become a constant fixture with every teenager.

This fact has become quite apparent in the past years. A recent study found that over seven hours a day is spent by teens consuming media, whether in the form of watching TV, listening to music, social networking, or playing video games. Not surprisingly, a majority of this screen time is done on cell phones. Interestingly enough, in the past years, studies have found that many people are using cell phones in lieu of alarm clocks, watches and cameras. Because they have so much importance in our lives, it is not surprising that on average we spend two thirds more time on our phones than we do interacting with loved ones. Sophomore Jo Pittman understands this and said, "The first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is check my phone." Pittman is not the only one who does this, though. Many teens feel anxiety if their twitter timeline goes unchecked for more than a couple of hours, like senior Maddie Meade. Meade said that, when checking her twitter timeline, she feels the need to read every tweet, regardless of whether or not the tweet interests her.

While there are certainly many problems that arise from too much cell phone use, there is one problem that is relevant to the students at BHS. Oftentimes, instead of experiencing things just for the experience, BHS students see the moment as nothing more than something to tweet or Instagram. Many of us get so caught up in maintaining our social profiles (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) that we neglect to realize that we are missing out on important experiences. According to Meade, during the holidays her number of Instagram posts increases greatly because she is able to create a moment that she would want her followers to see and comment on. Meade said, "If there's an occasion, I will Instagram it." If Meade were the only person with this mindset, it would be hardly noticeable. But, when nearly every high school student at BHS lives by the same mantra, one begins to question if what they are seeing on their social media is an authentic experience or, rather, a fabricated one.

There is a rare form of testing known as group tests, and these could be the tests of the future. In society today, one person will never be without contact of people and the service of the internet. So, if tests are administered as group tests, rather than single person tests, students can solve problems in a life like situation that will prepare them for their future.

All in all, educators everywhere need to realize that high schoolers need to be taught for their futures. Teens need to be prepared for a future where tests are no longer closed to outside information and outside collaboration.

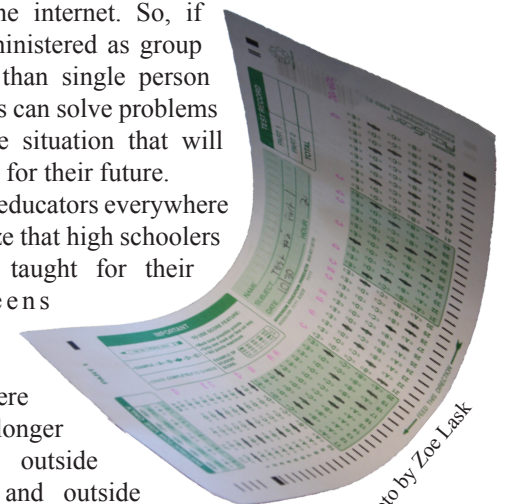


Photo by Zoe Lask



Instagram Etiquette

Ty Eldridge '14, Assistant Photo Editor

Instagram is constantly growing with popularity. If someone is guilty of posting selfies in their “fav undies” or are simply new to the “IG” world, here are a few things that will help get them in the good graces of their Instagram audience. It is vital to know what infuriates established users, what should never be posted and how more followers can be gained without going too far. First and foremost, users should establish their theme and stick with it; whether that theme is shots from their daily lives or cloudy skies, followers will expect a certain quality, and while it can be fun to stray occasionally, too many random food photos might get annoying. In short, gaining followers on Instagram is easy. Even though someone may be new to Instagram or maybe someone is guilty of doing most of these don'ts, as long as Instagram users keep their hot dog legs to themselves and keep away from ghosting around on the “gram”, users will be InstaFamous in no time.

1. Do not apply filters to your pictures. Filters add an interesting look but do not add a filter that distorts the picture.
2. Do not hashtag #meandmycar. Everyone knows that when they first started driving, they could not wait to post pictures standing by or “driving” in their new car. Also, steer clear of #drivingselfie. Duck facing and driving is a bad idea.
3. Do not post text message screen shots. No text message conversation, no matter how many emojis, inside jokes, and song references you use, will ever be considered funny to anyone else.
4. Do not post a picture of just your legs and add #funinthesun #teamtan as hashtags. Followers do not want to see hotdog legs. They really do look like hotdogs. Good thing we have a couple months until followers have to see it again.
5. Do not ask people to follow you. It's like pestering people to be your friend. Do try and be social.
6. Do not flood the feed and add #photoshoot. Post a couple pictures a day. Followers do not want to feel like they are looking through a flip book.
7. Do not become a ghost follower; if you expect likes, you have to also like other people's pictures. Ghosting around on IG is weird and creepy.



Photos by Shelby Silver

The POPS and FLOPS of January 2014

Ask.Fm

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor

With the growing popularity of Ask.fm, people are able to say whatever they want without any consequences. The point of these anonymous websites is to let the Ask.fm user answer harmless questions about themselves to the public, not to be bullied into depression and, in extreme cases, suicide. Yes, there are the occasional nice comments thrown around on these websites, but the ruthless and vulgar comments have become much more apparent. So, like you do with everything else in life, think before you act because one small comment that means nothing to one user, can mean the world to someone else.

Slurpees

Ma'indi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

Let's be honest. It is never too cold outside for a slurpee. So, whether it is 102 degrees in December, it is never the wrong day to satisfy one's thirst, but they also make only do slurpees quench one's thirst, but they also make the soul happy. There is no better feeling than filling up the famous slurpee cup to the brim with a cherry-coke mix or a concoction of 10 different flavors and then guzzling down the fruity and sugary goodness. Within minutes, if not seconds, slurpers will see the light and hear the hallelujah chorus shine into their hearts. If not, it may have a delayed reaction, but do not give up hope. No matter the weather, go out with friends, siblings, or even a cat and buy your cholesterol in a cup at the local 7-11.

Fishing Club

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

A new club has become a 'fin'-omenon at BHS, but only recently have students begun 'herring' about this "new squid on the block." The sole 'porpoise' of this club is to learn about different fishing techniques. The club meets every Thursday in the Design Studio and everyone has the opportunity to join in and enjoy the tactical art of fishing. It is easy to get hooked on such an awesome club. Many people feel that the club is less relevant in the winter, but this is certainly not the case—ice-fishing is a popular pastime in Michigan. In the summer, the club plans to have fishing outings to lakes in the area where they will enjoy the serenity of the outdoors while using the skills they learned to catch an array of fish.

App Updates

Jenna McClure '16, Publicity Director

Those who own Apple or Android devices either regret having updated an app because of expected bugs or the pressure one feels to update with the constant notifications. Although updates are supposed to make the app better, some can argue that it makes it worse. New is not always better for androids, iPhones or similar devices. As more updates are happening to social media apps, the only differences are really stylistic. Many have not seen are the apps actually being improved. There are still bugs, and sometimes the update causes the device to run more slowly. Stop the updates. Stop the madness.

Snow Days

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor

If there is one thing that the opinionated and critical world of high school can agree on, it is that any time off from school is a good thing. When the possibility of a snow day is present, the whole school anxiously refreshes their computers or awaits that crucial phone call that will determine the next day's fate. But what is better than one snow day? Five! The snow day gods felt generous during the week of Jan. 3 through Jan. 8, granting hundreds of schools in the state with a stunning total of five snow days in a row. Unfortunately, snow days are a rare occurrence in today's age, but those legendary five days will stay fondly in the memory of BHS students.

GOING FOR THE GOLD: WINTER OLYMPICS ARE BACK

Drew Leshman '17, Co-Circulation Manager and Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer

On Feb. 6, 2014 the 22nd edition of the Winter Olympics will commence in Sochi, Russia. As the Winter Olympics occur only once every four years, the suspense for this year's games has been highly anticipated. From the joyous curling competition, to the always entertaining hockey tournament, the sporting events have many people impatiently waiting for opening day.

Most of the chatter surrounding the games relates to who will take home the gold. It's very competitive and the liveliness is felt in the air. "I am very excited to watch the Winter Olympics. Especially the hockey, because it is the best event in the Olympics," junior Noah Witus said. There are millions of people across the world that attend invigorating games or watch from home. But the commonality between all viewers is that they are rooting for their nation in each event. The worldwide magnitude of the Olympic Games make it even more exciting to watch as people from different countries can come together and enjoy the games as one. The winter games first started in Chamonix, France, in 1924, with much fewer events than the current games, and now here we are, almost one hundred years later, but the meaning is still the same.

Along with the classic Winter Olympics events that everyone looks forward to watching every four years like hockey, snowboarding, and skiing competitions, there are also new events being added in to this year's games. "I'm excited to watch the new events because it rejuvenates the Winter Olympics and it makes them more modern," freshman John Lurie said. For example, the first ever team figure skating competition will debut in Sochi. Also, slope style, which consists of skiers doing tricks as they go down a mountain, will make its first appearance this winter.

As the Winter Olympics are almost here, it is time for people to make their predictions and place their bets on who will take home the gold. However, these predictions are not just made by the average human beings out there, they are made by Infostrada Sports, an expert sport's projections website. These predictions give viewers a sense of what the games are anticipated to be like and what countries have the best chance in each event. Our great country, the United States is predicted to place in the top five, which is no surprise, as they almost always do extraordinary well at the Olympics. "The U.S. is going to pull through this year because we have such a good team put together," freshman Andrew McBee said. Canada is also projected to finish in the top five once again and it will be tremendously thrilling to see if that belief comes true, following their victorious campaign in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. It will be very exciting to see which if any, of these predictions come true as the games unfold in February.

The residents of Sochi are prepared and extremely anxious to host the participating countries from all over the world. The players and teams are mastering their last second tactics and then will be completely prepared. The snow is on the ground, the players are training, now let's get these games on the way.



Photo courtesy of discoverysnowtours, collegeswimming, and wkhm

S PARTANS AND W OLVERINES: PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE...

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

Last year was an unbelievable season for college basketball fans in Michigan. Michigan State University made it to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament before falling to Duke, while Michigan cruised all the way to the finals of the tournament where they lost a close game to the reigning champions, the Louisville Cardinals. The two teams split wins in a home-and-home series against each other, and this year promises to be just as close.

Both teams have very distinct leaders, whether it be the upperclassmen of MSU, or the Wolverine's young players. For Michigan, center Mitch McGary was projected to be among the best big men in the country, but injuries have prevented that, causing a couple star sophomores, Glenn Robinson III and Nik Stauskas, to step up. Robinson is shooting efficiently this season and Stauskas is one of the best 3-point shooters in the country, with a 3-point percentage of 44 percent. Senior Adam Israel said, "[The leader] should be Glenn Robinson III, but so far it's been Stauskas," calling attention to his natural shooting ability.

For Michigan, the leadership role this year is insurmountable to last year's leadership with NCAA Player of the Year, Trey Burke. To step up to the task of becoming the new Wolverine starting point guard is freshman Derrick Walton Jr. It

is impossible to completely fill the shoes of Burke, but Walton Jr. has been steady running the point. "He's played his role [well]," Israel said.

For MSU, the greatest talent is much easier to identify. "Big Three" has probably been the most overused words in sports ever since LeBron James' infamous "Decision," but for the Spartans, it certainly holds true. Seniors Adreian Payne, Keith Appling, and sophomore Gary Harris are among the best players in the country, all averaging over 16 points per game and projected to be selected in the upcoming NBA Draft. Israel said, "I really want to watch Adreian Payne because he's their leader," which is a common opinion amongst fans all over Michigan.

So far, both teams have played well this season. Michigan has a 12-4 record with close losses to highly-ranked Duke and number one Arizona. The Spartans started out this year with a bang defeating the then number one ranked Kentucky Wildcats, and they have just recently defeated the third ranked Ohio State Buckeyes in overtime. MSU's only loss so far this season was at the hands of streaky North Carolina.

Currently, MSU is the heavily favored team, but rivalry games are never easy and Michigan has a lot of talent to unleash. On Jan. 25, the first Michigan-Michigan State basketball matchup of the year will take place.

SAME OLD LIONS

Drew Leshman '17, Co-Circulation Manager

The Detroit Lions, as of Dec. 29, have once again fallen short of making the NFL playoffs. This past year the Lions had some potential, even more than previous years, but they blew it once again and did not make the cut for the playoffs finishing the season with a 7-9 record. It is no secret that it is hard to be a Lions fan with the disappointment they continue to give year after year. It simply is a joke that leaves many Detroiters laughing at their football team and others brutally disgusted in their team's performance each and every year.

After grabbing hold of a playoff spot for the first time in 14 years back in 2011, fans thought it was possibly a spark for the team. However, the fans knew better than believing in the Lions and took back their hope when the team showed little progress when they failed to make the playoffs the last two years. "I thought we would make a run for the next few years and I thought Stafford had finally found his groove, but we just started playing terrible again," freshman Jonah Stern said. Although, the last two years are not the only reason fans lost hope, reasons go along with the past 10 years as well. In 2008, the team finished with a 0-16 record which is the worst the franchise

has ever seen. The following year, the Lions finished the season with a 2-14 record which is just as bad. "It is pretty embarrassing, we always seem to start off well and then just lose it," senior Jason Sachse said. Some say it is an embarrassment to the players and coaching staff, and there are no words to describe the lack of progress after many years, except as a disgrace to all fans across the country.

This past season, when the team had their chance at the playoffs right in front of them, they found a way to give it up. Their loss to the New York Giants knocked all of their chances right out of the way. William Ford, the team's owner, knew something had to be done as the city of Detroit was losing a large portion of their fan base, because of the lack of confidence. The team is moving forward with former Ravens offensive coordinator and Colts head coach Jim Caldwell.

As the offseason is starting up, changes are being made and the confidence fans have towards the Lions is not increasing, which is expected. Of course, nobody can expect people to have confidence in this team until they see a vast improvement in the way our beloved lions play.

Photos courtesy of Con-struct from creative commons, clip art, pure hockey, and logos.wikia

WHO KNOWS THE ATHLETE BETTER?

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

The Spectator was privileged enough to be granted an interview with BHS hockey star, senior Stephen Wroe. Curious about how such a talent goes about his daily life, we asked Wroe about some of the most pressing questions the student body had for him. We then quizzed some of the people who supposedly know him best — his twin sister, senior Lauren Wroe, and fellow Berkley Bear hockey star, senior Curtis Carne — the same questions, and compared the responses. The results were shocking, but now we know that nobody truly knows the man behind the mask.

	Senior Stephen Wroe - Bear's goalie	Senior Lauren Wroe - Twin sister	Senior Curtis Carne - Bear's winger
"What's your favorite pre-game meal?"	"Pasta."	"Ummm... probably Subway or bananas." ❌	"Uhh I have no idea. I know he drinks Sprite during games... That's the key to being an all-state hockey player, but I don't know, Pasta?" ✅
"What's your favorite pump-up song?"	"Swimming Pools. The people will like that one."	"No clue. I can't even think right now." ❌	"He hates all the songs we play. 'Levels'. No not 'Levels', 'One Night in Bangkok.'" ❌
"Who's your hockey idol?"	"Chris Osgood."	"Osgood." ✅	"Umm... Anyone but Jimmy Howard... I know it's a goalie. I don't know, give me some Martin Brodeur." ❌
"Who's your favorite teacher at BHS?"	"Waldman."	"Weingarden." ❌	"Bancroft." ❌
"What is your favorite hockey brand?" (question courtesy of senior Dennis Bevza)	"CCM."	"I don't know." ❌	"Hockey brand? I don't know, Bauer." ❌

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THE COLLEGE WAY,
AND MY DILEMMA WITH IT

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

When I first came to the US, one of the classes I was placed in assigned a big project about colleges. The project was centered around researching facts about the college of your choice and then using PowerPoint to present these facts to the class. This happened in seventh grade, which meant we still had five more years until graduation, yet we were already being forced to look into colleges. It is a little too early, if you ask me, for a bunch of 12 and 13-years-olds to worry about colleges.

Over the last few decades, the demand for a college degree rose, and schools began to put more emphasis on the importance of going to college. Back in the 1950s, for example, many Americans had the means to afford a middle class lifestyle by working quality jobs they could acquire even without a degree. But now, most of the middle class jobs require a college degree. Along with the importance of a degree, the college experience plays an important role in making colleges more popular with the high school graduates. Many describe their college years as “the best they’ve ever had,” making their time at a university sound like the climax of their life.

Yet, college remains a choice that you don’t have to make. We have the option of going to college or pursuing our plans elsewhere. However, after years of hearing about how crucial college is to our lives, it becomes the choice that we tend to make. So is it really a choice? It seems like we are forced to focus our education on going to college; enrolling in AP classes to enhance our resumes, taking standardized tests numerous times in hopes of achieving a higher score, and partaking in school extracurriculars, not because we want to, but because college admission officers require us to. We put college on some kind of pedestal, inflating its influence on our lives, without realizing that it is just one of the options presented. There is a plethora of ways to live your life and achieve your goals without going to college, but these opportunities are never given the same amount of attention as colleges.

As someone who plans on becoming a computer programmer, I have the learning resources available to me for free on the internet. Still, I plan on attending a university and pursuing a computer science major. I am willing to invest four years of my life and tens of thousands of dollars on something I can get for free. The worst part is that I realize the ridiculousness of the situation, but I just can’t bring myself to say no to college. I think the answer, at least in my case, lies in security. Going to college makes my future less stressful because I don’t have to worry about “real world” issues for another four years. It comforts me to know that most of my time will be allocated to learning and simply enjoying life, not paying bills and working 9-5.

If I decided against going to college, then I’d pursue my computer programming goals in California. I’d enroll in a software quality assurance training program for about \$2,000, and then intern in one of the many companies in Silicon Valley. Afterwards, however, the uncertainty would kick in because an internship does not guarantee employment. It would be hard for me to market myself with only two months of training and one internship. Meanwhile, I would have to pay for food, rent, car, and any other necessities. But if I were to secure a stable job, then I’d continue to learn programming on my own time, either self-studying or taking night classes at a community college. By the time my peers graduated, I would have accumulated four years of real world experience, however, it would be challenging for me to make the jump from quality assurance tester to software developer, which is easier to get into with a computer degree.

High schoolers should thoroughly evaluate their options after graduating, instead of blindly making college their default choice. College does not guarantee me anything. Getting a degree won’t automatically land me a job, and the quality of said degree is also questionable, however that’s another topic for another time. But in a few months, I will commit to paying at least \$20,000 a year for four years just so I won’t have to deal with life’s scary reality.

THE QUESTION THAT DEFINES
A GENERATION

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

Imagination. It’s not just a trait necessary to have in the professional and social world, but it also shapes how every one of us live our lives. Having an untamed imagination can be a person’s biggest asset while still being their most challenging distraction. I’m not worried that our generation will lack the creativity necessary to succeed in the professional realm, however, I do have concerns about those children who were born a decade after us. It’s not as if they are lacking the resources and time to develop their minds at the stage they are currently in, they are simply being distracted from their childhood too soon into their young lives.

Sure, growing up we all watched our share of TV and had our lazy days. But the difference in having an inactive day once in a while, and turning each day into wasted time, is that the latter produces children that haven’t experienced their childhood to its fullest potential. One of the most beautiful parts about being a kid is the element of not knowing: not knowing what our future holds, not knowing what they joke on SpongeBob was REALLY referring to, and most of all, not knowing that we are still yet to even fathom everything our brain will hold in just a decade of time. Today, kids too young to be exposed to the freedom that technology holds have everything they could possibly want to know at their fingertips: by pressing just a few buttons they can look up words mommy and daddy said, or even find information they probably shouldn’t be looking at.

As kids, we had dreams for ourselves, ones that, while not practical, reflected our creative mind at the time. These wild dreams still exist in very young children, but for the most part, today’s kids are much more realistic in what they can attain in life.

I believe this whole point can revolve around one not so simple question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” As we have all evolved into mature high school students, our answer has become much more oriented to the interests we have explored throughout our time at BHS. But back when we were seven or eight, the answer was always professional athlete, astronaut, supermodel, President or even fireman. All of these hopeful careers went without critical thought or consideration as we knew what people who do these jobs were like (ie. muscular, adventurous and often in the public eye). We based these decisions solely on instinct, and our imagination that, with that answer, was searching for a career we solely thought would be “fun.” What strengthened our creativity was the fact that we weren’t glued to screens that would’ve provided us with the answer to this question before it was even asked. Instead of checking our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts (that 4th graders do have) we watched a couple shows on Nickelodeon, then went and played with our action figures, Barbies, and other various toys. It may sound silly, but the simple child’s toy may have been just the distraction we needed to save our minds from becoming totally reliant on television.

We all were constantly playing with toys that were in fact modeled around creative, yet often impractical, career choices like firefighters, models (Barbie’s), police officers, members of the Armed Forces, astronauts and so many more. We always made it so our favorite toy won whatever competition or battle they were competing in which is why we also usually chose a career that mirrored this favorite toy – they were the victorious and clearly superior toy in your game, so why shouldn’t you be that dominant figure in real life? Clearly, we wanted to live up to being the glorious heroes our toys were, but, more than that, these toys gave us an alternative from becoming the lazy couch potatoes that television would have turned us into. Instead, we used our minds to create situations for our toys to play in, which, in turn, expanded our imaginations so that we had a way to connect with our dreams and ambitions. Our lives didn’t revolve around our favorite TV sitcoms. However, many of today’s older elementary school kids don’t have an alternative to their technology. They got their first phone in third grade, and since then have not looked back. Any toy they receive now doesn’t compare to their technology. What results is a kid who can’t access anything besides what is right in front of them. Their imaginations are severely diminished to only being able to access what they have in front of their face, not anything that requires them to think outside the confines of their screens.

Somehow, 8 and 9-year-old kids have cell phones (some even nicer than ours) that have the ability to look up anything on the World Wide Web. So, when asked the seemingly harmless career question, they give an answer one would expect out of a high schooler. Their technology has inhibited them from considering types of occupations that, while impractical, are the essence of what being a child is all about. Based on my camp counselor and babysitting experience, I believe that kids now have back-up plans by the time they reach the third or fourth grade. When I asked a kid I babysat what he wanted to be when he grew up, he confidently said, “a chef.” After further explanation, I understood that it was his dream to become a professional athlete, as is almost every young boy’s dream, but he knew that career was nearly impossible to attain. He realized that his dream might not be attainable, so he immediately referred to what his young generation knows best – surfing through TV channels looking for anything that catches his interest. He saw the show *Top Chef*, which immediately caught his attention. So, instead of giving a response that was typical to a younger kid, he used all the technology he had at his disposal to give a shocking answer. Cooking just so happened to call to him, but there are many other options for young kids, who have clearly moved on from the constant cartoon-age, like doctor (how many medical shows are there?), lawyer (same goes or law related shows), and many more. While their main goals continue to be as ours were, the main difference is that this generation of young-uns are more prepared for life’s obstacles when they should be worried about who to have a play-date with this weekend.

Back in the early 2000’s, our creativity as kids was quite expansive. We used our toys and natural thinking ability to escape the real life situations portrayed on TV. This enhanced our imagination and career dreams to levels not attainable by today’s elementary school kids. This trend will not stop as it can be sure that technology will not be regressing anytime soon, the only hope kids have of regaining their imaginative side is by putting their faith into good ‘ol toys.