

SPECTATOR

February 2014



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last issue?
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out online!



Volume LXIX, Issue V Berkley High School



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FEBRUARY HOROSCOPES

Jake Kreinbring '16, Staff Psychic and Madison Huff '15, Psychic in training

Aries: March 21 - April 19

Your "act now, think later" persona will yield unsuccessful results in this month's endeavors. Change up your process by thinking things through for once. Otherwise, you are in for one heck of a train wreck.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

This month, you may encounter some conflict in that busy mind of yours. Be prepared for World War III to break out among your thoughts. Whichever thought comes out victorious is the obvious choice.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Trend setting comes naturally to those possessing this sign. Unfortunately, this month calls for a whirlwind of a wardrobe malfunction with a chance of continuous fashion violations. I recommend minimal public outings.

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Cupid's arrows are heading your way, so prepare to be shot. Wearing your heart on your sleeve will come with a reward. Your mojo is at an all-time high, and resisting you is futile this month. Own it.

Leo: July 23 - August 23

People would appreciate your helping hand this month, so take a few hours out of your week to better the lives of others. This good karma will eradicate some of your past misdoings which may come back to bite you otherwise.

Virgo: August 24 - September 23

Your stubbornness may be your downfall this month. For once, accept the opinion of others for they will benefit you greatly. Sadly, you tend to follow the motto, "mess with the bull and you'll get the horns." Good luck with that.

Libra: September 24 - October 22

Life may have been knocking you down lately, but get back on your feet. Do not wait for life to give you what you want, you need to go and seize the moment. Avoid people who have a negative attitude.

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Some of your friends have had an on going conflict that has been affecting both them and those around them. Take initiative and don't be afraid to tell them to stop. Your actions may lead to an even stronger friendship than before the conflict.

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

Things happening around you may seem out of your control, but rest assured you have the ability to affect the things around you as long as you try.

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

You have been rather emotional lately and those emotions may be firing you up. Some people may be trying to mess with you, but make sure to not let your emotions get the best of you. Keep your wits about you and all will be fine.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

You are an independent human being, but you have been too reliant on others lately. Take pride in your own actions and take control of your own future. Avoid Scorpios, seeing as they tend to have a poisonous personality that might take you down.

Pisces February 19 - March 20

Things have been going your way lately, however, you cannot expect things to stay like this. Beware of those looking to set you back, they are scared of the progress you are making and want to squish your dreams like a bug.

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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 Ava Dorsch hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165 and show her where Dorsch is! If you are the first to do so, your name will be taken down, and you will be hidden in the next issue.



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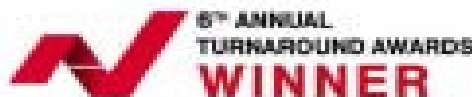
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333 West Seventh Street
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248-981-4258
margie.yaker@gmail.com

2959 12 Mile Road
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AUDREY KLAYMAN
Audrey@MyPerfectTrading.com

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A country divided: the Ukrainian protests

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

In Nov. 2013, Ukraine approached a milestone in their relationship with the European Union (EU). After years of negotiations, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was supposed to sign the EU Association Agreement which would establish a beneficial economic partnership between EU and Ukraine. However, on Nov. 21, Yanukovich pulled out of the agreement and instead agreed to a further partnership and financial aid from Russia. Thousands of people came to the capital of Ukraine, Kiev, to peacefully protest the decision, but on Nov. 30, Ukrainian police forces brutally assaulted the calm protesters. In response to the police brutality, more than 300,000 citizens arrived to protest in Kiev on Dec. 1. The peaceful protests continued non-stop throughout December and January.

In an effort to stop the ongoing protests, Yanukovich implemented harsh laws that made protests, and protest-related activities like as filming an evidence of police brutality, illegal and severely punishable by law. On Jan. 22, the protests escalated and became violent, with two protesters dying of gunshot wounds, and one dying by falling off a stadium pillar after a confrontation with police. The protesters attacked police using rocks, catapults and Molotov cocktails against police. To add to the mayhem, the protesters seized government buildings in Kiev.

Protesters demanded Yanukovich to leave his post and call for early presidential elections this year. In a mitigation attempt, Yanukovich offered high government positions to the protest's leaders, which they refused to take. "What happened today was that Viktor Yanukovich announced

that the government wasn't ready to take responsibility for the country and suggested the opposition lead the government," opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk told his supporters in Kiev according to BBC. "What is our answer to this? Are we afraid of responsibility? We are not afraid of responsibility for the destiny of Ukraine!"

As time has passed, the protests began to spread throughout Ukraine. The protesters took control of government buildings in the major cities in Western Ukraine, such as Lviv, which traditionally has had close social and cultural connections with Europe. Similar mutiny attempts of overthrowing and taking control of local government facilities have been made in the east of the country, where most of Yanukovich's supporters reside. Those efforts however, were unsuccessful and were met with violent opposition from the police forces and government supporters. In those regions, the police are often aided by various pro-president groups, such as biker gangs in the city of Sevastopol and athletic young men in Donetsk.

After continuing instability in the country, Russia made a decision to suspend their financial aid to Ukraine until the government establishes a firm economic plan. Meanwhile, the United States and EU are working together on their own financial aid plan for Ukraine.

As the country continues to stalemate, many opposition supporters begin to lose their trust in their leaders. Radical, far-right coalition Pravy Sektor, who disagree with any foreign influence, decided to separate from the opposition and act on their own. In a recent interview with TIMES,



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Ukrainian protesters use force to clash with the police forces.

their leader Dmytro Yarosh explained that the group will respond with a violent force if negotiations fail. "This whole peaceful song and dance, the standing around, the negotiations, none of it has brought real change," Yarosh said.

The situation in Ukraine grows more violent each day, as more people join the protests. Foreign influences will play an important role, considering both the US and Russia see strategic advantages in allying with Ukraine. However, with violent and ultra nationalistic groups such as Pravy Sektor gaining popularity, it will be hard to keep the situation from escalating to more violent levels in the upcoming weeks.

Philip Seymour Hoffman (1967-2014)

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

American actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died on Feb. 2, 2014 at the age of 46 due to an apparent drug overdose. The autopsy was inconclusive, and further tests will be needed. He was found in his New York apartment with a syringe in his arm and at least five empty envelopes of heroin. Hoffman had a very well established acting career, that included receiving numerous awards and recognition. He received an Academy Award for best actor for his performance in the 2005 film *Capote* and nominations for his supporting roles in *Charlie Wilson's War* (2007), *Doubt* (2008), and *The Master* (2012). He was an extremely versatile actor, with a wide range of roles that resulted in a long and successful career. For many, his most notable work are his supporting roles in

numerous popular movies such as *The Big Lebowski* (1998), *Moneyball* (2008), and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013). At the time of his death, he was set to play the lead in a Showtime show called *Happyish*. Hoffman was active in theatre as well, belonging to the Labyrinth Theatre Company since 1995.

Hoffman had a history of addiction problems, beginning soon after his graduation from New York University, but was sober until May 2013. At that time, he relapsed and went into a detox facility. Four suspects have been arrested under suspicion of supplying him with the heroin that led to his death. In a 2008 interview with the New York Times, Hoffman said that he lived his life "...in such a way that I don't have profound regrets. That's

probably why I work so much. I don't want to feel I missed something important." The mourning masses may find solace in the assurance that he indeed did not miss anything important and that he lived his life to the fullest.

Close to 100 people from Hoffman's neighborhood, in which he was a defining and active member, gathered outside his apartment to mourn his passing. A number of celebrities were strongly affected by the actor's death. Sir Ian McKellen said of Hoffman on Facebook, "He was without doubt one of the most accomplished screen actors of our time." The marquee lights on Broadway were dimmed for one minute at 7:45 pm on Feb. 5 in remembrance of the great actor, entertainer and performer that was Philip Seymour Hoffman.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Hoffman playing Plutarch Heavensbee in one of his recent films, *The Hunger Games*.



Photo courtesy of Justin Hoch

Hoffman speaking at a Hudson Union Society event in Sep. 2010.

Kellogg Foundation pledges \$40 million to Detroit Institute of Arts

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer

On Jan. 28, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation announced that it will contribute \$40 million to the Detroit Institute of Arts later this year. This generous donation is in an effort to save the extensive collection of art held at the museum as well as to help avoid other cuts to municipal pensions in Detroit's federal bankruptcy case.

In late January, the Kellogg Foundation, located in Battle Creek, MI stated in an article in USA Today that they saw their donations to the DIA as "an investment in Detroit, its children and families, and our shared future." Nine other benefactors including the Ford Foundation, the Kresge Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation have also pledged money. In total, \$370 million will be raised by both local and national foundations in effort to save the works of the DIA.

The ultimate rationale behind the donations made by the Kellogg Foundation and others is to relieve the city-owned DIA of ever having to generate money by selling a portion of its collection to keep the museum operating. The foundation's money will undoubtedly help to reduce a portion of the city's obligation to its pensions which are also at risk of being reduced in the upcoming bankruptcy proceedings. According to Detroit's Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, the city's pensions are underfunded by an estimated \$3.5 billion.

In early February, Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder

urged the state's legislature to provide an additional \$350 million to the DIA relief efforts. He claimed that the money will not be used as a bailout of banks and creditors but as a way to "mitigate the impact on retirees"



A front view of the Detroit Institute of Arts on a chilly winter morning.

of Detroit's financial collapse. By nearly matching the private donations, Snyder has brought the sum of pledged money to \$720 million.

The Kellogg Foundation has not disclosed over how many years it will spread out its \$40 million contribution. The grant money will also help to fund the nearly \$25 million spent annually on Detroit education and health care programs for children. Kellogg's \$40 million pledge stands as the third largest single contribution to the Detroit pension and DIA rescue fund. The New York based Ford Foundation has pledged the largest amount, giving \$125 million, followed by a donation of \$100 million from the Troy-based Kresge Foundation.

In a statement given on Jan. 28, the contributing foundations expressed optimism feeling that they will be able to attract more financial contributions from other institutions. In a later statement, the coalition stated that, "It is our urgent hope and our belief that our combined investments in the future of Detroit will help stabilize and renew the city at this critical time."

With generous donations like those provided by the Kellogg Foundation as well those made by other national and local donors, Detroit will hopefully be able to continue to keep its leading attractions like the DIA running for the enjoyment of the city's citizens and interested tourists alike.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Upping the ante: Michigan makes an effort to raise the minimum wage

Jake Kreinbring '16, Entertainment Editor

If there is one thing that is always on Berkley student's minds, it is money. Lots of students work as much as they can to pay for their needs and wants, and things may take a turn in a good direction for these young workers.

The issue of the minimum wage is not limited to the national stage, but has become a big topic in Michigan lately. As of January of this year, if the supporters of a ballot proposal get 258,000 signatures on a new petition, the collection of these signatures would lead to raising the minimum wage of \$9.50. This raise would also increase the wages of tip workers like waiters and waitresses. They would see a \$0.85 raise in the minimum wage until it reaches \$9.50. This is a huge raise from the minimum wage of \$2.65 per hour, and it would benefit those who are trying to support

themselves or possibly a family.

Not everyone agrees with the idea of raising minimum wage though. Opposers to the movement say that this raise would increase demand of lower skill jobs, and would therefore decrease the amount of people going to colleges and seeking higher education. This is a big point people are making, but it is hardly the only one. Other points are that some are making against the raise is that it would decrease the value of the dollar in the long run.

All in all, this raise in the minimum wage would be beneficial short term, but could turn into a bad situation in the long term, like a possibility of inflation. As this situation develops, the national and local eye will be on this issue.



A McDonalds worker who would be affected by a raise in the minimum wage.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

World Cup woes:

This World Cup may not be as successful as the last

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

Preparations for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil are critically behind schedule. In preparation for the event, Brazil had to renovate and build a total of 12 stadiums before the tournament's start on June 12. However, it has recently been revealed that the stadiums are far over budget and are critically underdeveloped. One has even been considered dangerous by the FIFA inspectors, and another has only 40 of 40,000 seats installed.

The inability to build proper stadiums is only one facet of the problems facing the Brazilian World Cup. Civilian unrest has reached critical levels and protests have broken out. The people are angered by the lack of proper public transportation and other public works, as the costs for the World Cup stadiums being erected rise higher and higher. The people blame the rapidly rising costs on corruption. Their slogan, "There will be no World Cup," can be seen on banners in these demonstrations. The protesters claim that money from the World Cup is only being used to accommodate swarms of tourists, and will not be spent trying to fix the social issues within the country. In Sao Paolo, protests turned violent and demonstrators attacked police vehicles and defaced shops and banks in the city. The protesters commented to Sky News that, "This is a small sample of the protests that will happen when the World Cup begins."

As June 12 draws ever nearer, the global community will be watching Brazil to see if their government can finish preparing in time to host this international event.

During the competition, the safety of the fans and players will be a real concern, and violent protests during the event would reflect that the country is unsafe and unable to govern itself well. If they are unable to safely and successfully host the tournament, it will certainly cast doubt on the viability of the Summer Olympics, which are scheduled to take place in the city of Rio de Janeiro in 2016.



Photos courtesy of Anthony Stanley

Spain celebrates their World Cup win from four years ago, they will hope to repeat in 2014.



Photo courtesy of Tânia Rêgo/Agência Brasil

Brazilians take to the streets to protest the 2014 World Cup with a sign that reads "If the fare doesn't drop, Rio is going to stop."

Snow day solutions discovered

Drew Leshman '17, Co-Circulation Manager

The big story around BHS during this winter is all of the cancelled school days due to extreme weather conditions. Students have begun to wonder what the next step is. Is the school going to have to make up school days?

As of now, administrators are starting to make future plans regarding what will need to happen, if anything does. In Michigan, schools are allowed a maximum of six cancelled school days. This year, due to the brutal weather conditions, BHS has had seven as of Feb. 13. Having seven snow days would logically cause one to think that the school would have to make up one school day, but the situation appears to have worked out better than students originally thought.

It assume that BHS will not administer changes in response to the extra snow day. "At this point, nothing is going to happen. It appears we are safe," Assistant Principal Mr. Michael Ross said. Ross continued, "Our school day is longer than most districts, so we have enough time built in that at this point we would not have to make up any days." BHS is lucky; if the school day were not longer than others in the area, days might have been forced to be made up. Nothing sounds better to students than missing more school days than originally allotted and not having to stay farther into June.



McDavid and Gawel enjoy a refreshing drink on the morning of a snowday.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and Berkley School District, photo by Zoe Lask; edited by Ty Eldridge

With this winter being one of the worst in Michigan's history, it would not be surprising to see a few more days cancelled. "If we had two more days [off], my guess would be [that] we would just add some time to the end of the school day for a specific amount of time," Ross said. Students might be a bit more concerned than they were earlier in the winter, as another snow day could affect their after school plans.

As of now, it looks like students have got nothing to worry about, which is fantastic news. "I'd be [mad] if we had to stay," sophomore Drake Yolkiewicz said. Obviously, it would anger many students if this were the case, however there are the occasional students who would not really mind. "Honestly, it doesn't bother me that much," sophomore Michael Koch said. Knowing that adding on school days is not an option as of now makes students extremely pleased; even the ones who claim it is not a problem are still extremely happy for it.

Fortunately, for BHS students the school schedule will remain unchanged for now. Maybe students will now think twice before putting a spoon under their pillow and praying for yet another snow day.

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Oscar nominated short films

Sebastian Betzer '14, Opinion Editor

With the Oscars being presented on March 2, it is due time to learn about the nominees. The least known category is the short films category. It is split into two separate groups: animated and live-action shorts. Short films are unique because they need to be very masterfully crafted in order to tell a story in a very brief time. The genre allows independent directors a chance to showcase their talents, and can lead to them becoming famous. This year's nominations are as follows:

Animated Short Films:

- *Feral* by Daniel Sousa and Dan Golden- This film is about a boy who was raised by wolves and is then brought into society where he attempts to use his instincts to adapt. The animation style of this film was very different from all of the others; it is black and white and focuses primarily on geometric shapes to contrast the organic shapes of the wild. The film raises interesting questions about the effect that culture has on people. Fans of Disney's *Tarzan* should watch this film because it provides yet another representation of culture that should also be considered.

- *Get a Horse!* by Lauren MacMullan and Dorothy McKim- This film is an ode to the evolution of Disney animations. Over the course of the film, the directors showcase the animation styles and humor that Disney cartoons have exhibited over the years. From hand drawn frames to CGI animation, the expansive legacy of Disney is on full display. This movie would appeal to anyone who enjoys classic cartoons and their development into more modern ones.

- *Mr. Hublot* by Laurent Witz and Alexandre Espigares- This film is about a man living in a futuristic world where everything is mechanical. The protagonist is faced with a conflict when he sees an abandoned dog. When he adopts the dog, he is faced with a challenge that alters his rigid lifestyle. The film explores the humanistic behaviors of compassion, curiosity and personal development in a world that makes people into machines. People who are interested in the steampunk science fiction genre would especially enjoy the style of this animated short film.

- *Possessions* by Shuhei Morita- An anime film that showcases the Japanese belief that objects become spirits after 100 years. The filmmaker pushes the boundaries of the anime style by giving it an element of depth which is vital in order to depict the action of the short film. People who enjoyed films such as *Spirited Away*, or *Howl's Moving Castle*, would definitely like *Possessions*.

- *Room on the Broom* by Max Lang and Jan Lachauer- This adaptation of a children's storybook into a film is very quaint and contains a lot of discreet comedy. The film is exceptional because audiences of all ages can find something comical within, whether it is the narrative or certain subtle motions made by the characters. As the longest of the short films, this spends the most time developing its characters and creates a sense of empathy for each of them. This film should be watched by people who enjoy the *Wallace & Gromit* films because the relatively simple narrative is underscored with subtle humor.

Live-Action:

- *Aquel No Era Yo (That Wasn't Me)* by Esteban Crespo- This is an intense film that depicts the actions of child soldiers in Africa. The film is especially good because it makes a great effort to show that the children in these situations are not inherently evil. By showcasing the system that they must grow up in, this film draws attention to a terrifying reality of life in certain locations within Africa. This film holds a very powerful message, and those who wish to be presented with a portrait of a character that is faced with inescapable violence should certainly see this film.

- *Avant Que De Tout Perdre (Just Before Losing Everything)* by Xavier Legrand and Alexandre Gavras- A film that depicts the terror involved with leaving behind a situation of abuse. This film follows a mother and her two children as they attempt to escape her abusive husband. Details about the father are presented very slowly; in fact, not much is ever directly stated about what he has done to them. Yet, the film presents a terrifying representation about trying to escape. When the abusive husband shows up at the supermarket where the kids and mother are hiding, the feeling of danger is excellently portrayed. This film provides a way to understand domestic abuse that wouldn't normally be considered and is therefore a film that should not be missed.

- *Helium* by Anders Walter and Kim Magnusson- This film explored the difficult emotions that arise with terminally ill children. The story is about a janitor that met a boy who was terminally ill. The janitor told the boy stories about Helium, a fantastical land, in order to give the boy hope and some happiness given his bleak future. The film is as beautiful as it is sad and therefore should be seen by anyone who contemplates what meaning there is in life and in death.

- *Pitäkö Mun Kaikki Hoitaa? (Do I Have to Take Care of Everything?)* by Selma Vilhunen and Kirsikka Saari- This hilarious short film revolves around a family getting ready for a wedding. The rapid-fire humor, combined with the frantic pace and the fact that everyone can relate to the events in the film, makes it wonderfully humorous. Anyone who enjoys a laugh would enjoy this film as well.

- *The Voorman Problem* by Mark Gill and Baldwin Li- This film is about a psychologist and a man who believes he is God. The interactions between them provide the basis for the film. The cinematography in this film is impeccable, and the narrative is witty and surprising. Anyone who likes dark humor would enjoy this film.

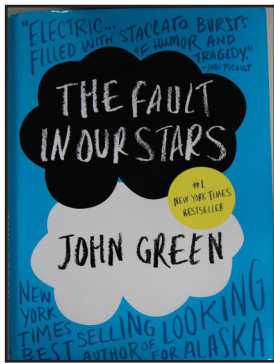
The short film genre is incredibly important in terms of understanding the power of film, for such a large amount to be communicated in such a short space of time is certainly noteworthy. This type of film allows the director more freedom of expression than a full length film that needs to appeal to a massive audience. The often overlooked short film allows directors to challenge the conventions of genre in interesting and thought provoking ways. The short films above have been nominated because they are outstanding. All of them deserve the recognition but only one can win in each category, find out on March 2 by watching the 86th annual Academy Awards.

Big books hit the big screen

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

Some people hate it when their favorite books get picked up by Hollywood directors, but for others it's the moment they have been waiting for. Best-selling novels such as *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay (Part I)* by Suzanne Collins, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry are making their debut on the big screen this year. Here's what to expect:

The Fault in Our Stars



Author: John Green

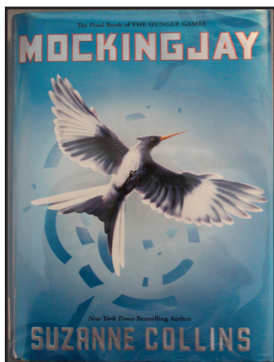
Release date: June 6, 2014

Cast: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort

What it's about: A 16-year-old cancer patient named Hazel (Woodley) falls in love with another patient. The book follows their unexpected relationship in a notably humorous way.

What to expect: The film appearance embraces the dark humor of the book with the tagline "One Sick Love Story." It also brings up some critical issues tissues.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay (Part I)



Author: Suzanne Collins

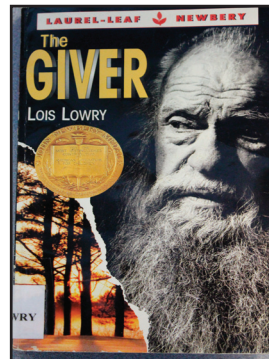
Release date: November 21, 2014

Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth

What it's about: The final book in *The Hunger Games* trilogy has been split into two movies, so Part I will tell only the initial half of Katniss Everdeen's rebellious overthrow of the Capitol in the aftermath of the Quarter Quell shown in *Catching Fire* last year.

What to expect: It's hard to know how much of the story this film will recount, but expect more audacious costumes from the Capitol and more intensity from Lawrence as she channels Katniss' struggle to become the rebellion's leader. Part II will not come out until 2015.

The Giver



Author: Lois Lowry

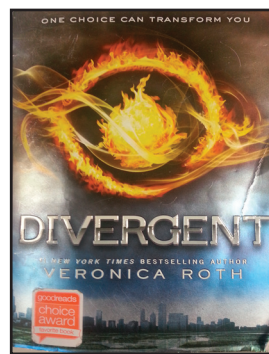
Release date: August 15, 2014

Cast: Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep, Alexander Skarsgard, Taylor Swift

What it's about: In a dystopian future, society has eliminated pain, emotion, and color. A young boy named Jonas is named the Giver, a position responsible for keeping the memories of the community safe. The young adult novel follows the struggle to abide by the structures of society.

What to expect: Most of the film's hype has come from the casting of Swift in a bit part, but the 1993 novel has been a longtime favorite and will probably be centered on Jonas, played by newcomer Brenton Thwaites. It will be interesting to see how the director Phillip Noyce handles the book's explanation that there is no color in this society.

Divergent



Author: Veronica Roth

Release date: March 21, 2014

Cast: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Kate Winslet

What it's about: In a dystopic version of Chicago, people are split into seven groups based on their personality traits. A young girl named Beatrice Prior (Woodley) is marked as a "divergent" who doesn't fit into any of the five factions category, kicking off a rebellion against the sect-driven government.

What to expect: This is the first adaptation in the *Divergent* trilogy, and it looks to be an epic young adult action film on the level of *The Hunger Games*. The film will probably be one of the biggest book-to-movie editions of the year based on the popularity of the series.

Detroit celebrates Black History Month

Cameron Cece '16, Staff Writer

The month of February is about honoring African American heritage and is an exceptionally important occasion to many metro Detroit citizens. The city celebrates this month in many ways that include hosting large music events, art galleries, and many museum exhibits that celebrate African American culture.

During February, the Henry Ford Museum and the Charles H. Wright Museum will be holding various exhibits depicting the diverse African American culture. These exhibits consist of reenactments of important events to showcase the struggles of African Americans during times like the civil rights era.

The Henry Ford Museum is known for focusing on the impact of the civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, while the Charles H. Wright Museum focuses more on the fine arts. Detroit native Chris Webber's exhibit, titled *Exceptional People During Extraordinary Times* makes a large appearance; it celebrates the lives of influential people like Philis Wheatley, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, all in the form of wonderfully crafted paintings. The Wright Museum is also celebrating musicians like Bob Marley who have created an alternative style of music that pushed for

peace between all races and ethnicities. The Wright museum also will be showing films dedicated to the different influences inspiring individuals had on society and leaders. "It was worth the money I paid for admission and I would definitely go back," sophomore Maliq Johnson said.

Black History Month is also a great way to see how African American culture has influenced today's music, dance, and art at the Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, where one can find different types of musical influences like rock, reggae, and blues. "The museum is very entertaining and extremely important for all people today," Johnson said. The Carr Center is also home of the new Dr. King. exhibit named *One Dream* which was built in a joint effort by the Carr Center and Baker College, taking one into the life of Dr. King and showing the magnitude of how the disputed issue of race was affected by Dr. King's work.

Black History Month is a great way to get out and learn new things about a culture that has brought so much to America and locally, to Detroit, so make sure to visit these amazing venues and help support this tradition and culture.

Sochi Olympics

ralph wrecked it

Jake Kreinbring '16, Entertainment Editor

Every four years, the audience of the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics greets the Olympians from each competing country. Traditionally, these Olympians have uniforms that relate back to their heritage, and they tend to be relatively good looking and formally put together. The United State's ceremonial uniforms this year are in one word: appalling. We showed up to one of the largest events to be televised ever, coming in at a whopping 3.5 billion viewers, in sweat pants, in sweat pants alone would not have been terrible, but that with the combination of that and our sweaters that looked like something thrown together by a color blind monkey. This is how America gave off our first impressions of our athletes to the world. After this terrible endeavour, we as Americans should hang our heads in shame.

short commings of sochi

Corey Lipton '16, News Editor

Russia has had some controversial ideas over the course of its history, and the decision to hold the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi may add to that lengthy list. The main issues that make the location questionable includes the fact the city of Sochi is a beach town, with an average annual temperature of 65.1 degrees during the day. Secondly, Sochi is only 300 miles west from Chechnya which is one of the biggest terrorist hotbeds outside of the Middle East. So why would they put the Winter Olympics in a dangerous subtropical climate one might ask? In a new documentary by Russian state television, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that he "chose [Sochi] personally." Putin likely favored the beach town because he has been known to vacation there and admits to greatly liking the city.

On top of the lack of snow, and the surprisingly short distance to Chechnya, these Olympic games will cost more than all winter games since 1924 combined. Corruption has its handprints all over these Olympics, as it is estimated that at least one third of the \$51 billion dollars have been pocketed by past oligarchs, or friends of Putin. These large sums of money became available when Putin grossly (and purposefully) overestimated the price of an arena that they built in Sochi. He then put oligarchs or friends in charge of the project, who spent the necessary amount of money on the project, and pocketed the remainder. One stadium that exemplifies the corruption is the Fisht Olympic Stadium, right in the middle of Sochi.

Russia also has their fair share of philosophical problems surrounding the Olympics, such as their controversial stance on gay marriage. The new anti-gay laws in Russia have caused widespread protest from human rights activists around the world. All we can hope is that Sochi can surpass expectations and have a great Olympics.



playing for america...

The United States Olympic team is always a force to be reckoned with when it comes to the Summer and Winter Olympics Games. The USA has sent its largest contingent ever to the Winter Olympics in Sochi with a total of 230 athletes, 106 of which are returning Olympians. The US only won nine gold medals in the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver 2010 but this year is hoping to take home even more.



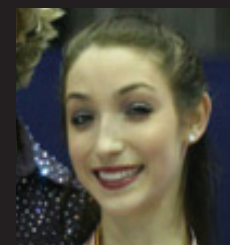
shaun white

Is a two time Olympic gold medalist and Sochi will be his third time competing in the Olympic Games. He is one of the most recognized faces in winter sports and as of Feb. 5 2014 dropped out of slopestyle due to the fact that he found it to be too dangerous. By dropping out of slopestyle he was able to focus solely on his performance in the Halfpipe.



mikaela shiffrin

Sochi will be Shiffrin's first Olympic Games. She has been competing since she was 15 years old, and she is now 18; she has since become a teen phenomenon. Shiffrin represents one of the strongest hopes for a medal for team USA.



meryl davis

This will be Davis's second Olympic Games competing with partner Charlie White. As they will be competing against their Canadian rivals who share the same ice rink and coach as they do this is setting up for what is bound to be a true showdown. Davis and her partner grew up nearby in Canton, Michigan.



zach parise

The captain of the Men's US hockey team is said to be one of the best hockey players in the game today. This will be his second Olympic Games, and he is hoping to help the US take home another gold medal.

The 2014 Winter Olympics began Feb. 7th, 2014 and ends Feb. 23, 2014. A good place to check out NBC's website for Olympic highlights, and after hopefully a successful run in Sochi the Americans will look forward to the 2018 Winter Olympics.

2014 sochi winter olympics: on arena for controversy

Maisy Cece '15, Staff Writer and Malindi Lubinecky '15, Layout Director

Every two years, the famous five multicolored intertwined rings make its appearance, announcing the arrival of the Winter Olympics. With the Olympic tradition always comes controversy, and for this year's Olympic Games it is no different. Not only has the chaos surrounding the topic of gay athletes participating in the games generated publicity but so has another great issue at hand: terrorist threats.

To clarify the rumors about the gay rights controversy, the law is simply that all athletes are allowed to compete; however, they cannot influence "gay propaganda" on minors. Homosexuality was decriminalized in Russia in 1993, but the law reflects widespread animosity toward homosexuals in Russian society. The legislation's vague language has troubled many people's understanding over the years. The law penalizes anyone who distributes information aimed at persuading minors that "non-traditional" relationships are normal or attractive. However, the Russian Government does not define what is considered to be information or distribution; many Russian citizens and foreigners attending the Olympic Games are advised to refrain from wearing pride flags or any other representation of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender community. According to Russian President, Vladimir Putin on Friday, Jan. 27, gay athletes will be safe at the Olympics as long as they "leave kids alone."

Alongside this pressing issue comes the threat of terrorist attacks aimed towards the Olympics and the athletes participating at the games in Russia. The biggest concern is the Islamist Insurgency in the Northern Caucasus, a region that has been waged in a war of independence against Russia since the 18th century. Recent bombings have occurred in Volgograd, a city north of Sochi, putting fans and Olympic athletes on high alert. In December, despite promises of heightened security at the Olympic Games, two suicide bombings organized by an Islamist militant group killed 34 people in Volgograd. The government was unable to precisely pinpoint the source behind the attacks, but traditionally, Chechen rebels have used young

women, usually widows of former soldiers to carry out the attacks. These so-called "black widows" are, in fact, widows of slain Chechen rebel fighters. According to Ian von Gordon, Director of Operations at the Diplomatic Protection Training Institute, "Putin has strategically located the Games very close to the Caucasus." He said, "That creates a very dangerous situation because now you have opportunity. You have a motive. You have an unprecedented situation where you have people from all over the world civilians participating in a highly publicized event." In order to de-emphasize the attention towards these threats, Olympic athletes have taken the precautionary measure of not wearing any article of clothing donning their home country's name, colors, or flags outside of the actual events. With doubts of security, the United States Security Services have offered to assist Russia in protecting athletes during their preparation for the Games, but Russia declined. Russia since then, has drafted around 37,000 police and security officers to maintain a secure environment in Sochi.

Private protection for athletes was enacted while at the games, and according to a CNN online article, extreme measures have been taken especially when the United States warned of how explosive materials could be concealed in toothpaste or cosmetic tubes. On Thursday, Feb. 6 the United States government temporarily banned all liquids, gels, aerosols and powders in carry-on luggage on flights between the United States and Russia. A law enforcement source told CNN the efforts are intended as a direct response to the terrorist threats. That same day, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ordered airlines to ban those same items from carry-on bags, but to allow them in checked bags.

With the entire dispute surrounding the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games, viewers will be watching in anticipation to see how the events surrounding the games will really unfold. Hopefully, attacks and controversy over gay athletes will be non-existent during the games, and only the athletic prowess of competitors will be the real news.

Sno. Co.

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

The Dance:

The very moment the students walked in, they found themselves inside a winter wonderland. The collaborative center had been transformed into a beautifully decorated ballroom. The room was covered with twinkly lights and an LED screen with snowflakes falling down, making it look like it was snowing inside the collaborative center. It was as if students were inside a snowglobe. "I had so much fun dancing and just having a good time with my friends," junior Patrick Falk said. Overall, students had a bunch of fun jamming along to some great tunes.



Spirit Week:

Spirit week was a blast for all. From pajama day to white out day, allowed students to have a nice time. Although the snow days robbed students of two of the theme days, the inclement weather did not stop us from enjoying the rest of the week. "I had so much fun doing spirit week: my favorite day was white out day," senior Ava Dorsch said. Upperclassmen were the most spirited, but freshmen could have tried a little harder to participate in the theme days. For the most part, spirit week was successful with fun themed days that made students giggle when they saw others dressed festively.



Pep Assembly:

Students actively participated in the snowcoming pep assembly with the help of jubilant emcees, seniors Kayla Sternthal and Daniel Agbay. Sternthal and Agbay were quite humorous with plenty of snow puns. "I was so happy to be an emcee at my last pep assembly; it really meant a lot to me," Sternthal said. The assembly started off with the famous BHS fight song, followed by performances from the cheerleaders, senior Jenna Apostol singing the national anthem beautifully, Encore! with a *Pitch Perfect* performance, the dance team performing their co-ed dance and the step team turning it up. The pep assembly ended with a couple of tug of war games, and to nobody's surprise, the seniors won almost every game. All in all, the pep assembly was packed with great entertainment that caused laughs from every grade.



Photos by Zoe Lask and Ms. Emily Mullins

Twas the night before a snow day

Corey Lipton '16, News Editor

The day before a possible snow day is always filled with mixed emotions: The confidence one feels the day before, the anticipation of waiting for the call, the sadness while waiting for the call, the excitement when the call comes, and every other emotion in between. This is our best interpretation of the average student's thoughts the day before a possible snow day.

During school: Teachers better not give us any homework. We're going to have a snow day. Wow, are you really giving us work? It's going to be a snow day. Don't expect any of us to do this, there is no way we have school tomorrow.

5:00 PM (supremely confident): Ha! There is no way I have to do any of this stuff. There is supposed to be at least ten inches by 7 a.m. tomorrow morning. The snow day calculator, which is always right, says that there is a 99 percent chance of a snow day, so it's basically inevitable. I mean, just look at it outside, it looks like Jack Frost and St. Nick got together for a snowball fight.

7:00 PM (beginning to second guess): So... if that snow would just hurry up... that would be great. It's literally fine though, I mean it's supposed to start snowing at like 10, but still. *Looks at backpack* Hah, not yet.

9:00 PM (self-reassuring): Okay, what gives? Do these people even look at the weather? It's not supposed to stop snowing all night. It's dangerous for the people who walk, they have to call it, people could get frostbite on the way to school. *Looks at backpack* ...#YOLO

10:00 PM (full of rage): Are they serious?? They still have not called the school. This is unbelievable. I am going to pick up everyone that I see walking because it is too freaking cold outside. I am not doing my homework in protest. *All thought while constantly refreshing snow day reports on wxyz.com*

10:01 PM- school was called (Pure happiness):

YAAAAAAAAAASSSSSS!

Thank you Mr. McDavid, thank you school board, thank you weather man, thank you whoever is controlling this snow, thank you snow plowers, thank you to anyone who had any hand in this snow day.

The next morning: *Sleeps until noon*

Adequately cool for school

Emma Weisberger '16, Feature Editor and Nicole Doctoroff, '16 Business/Ad Manager

Some people at BHS are stuck in the mindset that they have to follow certain rules and conform to assumed norms to survive their four years here. However, from our observations, we have come to the conclusion that there are ways around these “rules” for a more stress free and happy high school life.

BUM DAYS:

It's okay if: you wake up one morning and the thought of putting on nice clothes makes you want to roll up in a ball and cry. The morning can be rough, especially with the thought of a seven hour school day ahead of you. Most kids would love to hop straight out of bed and look perfect without putting in any effort into their look, but truth of the matter is, looking good to impress people requires time and energy. While it may not look very attractive, throwing on sweatpants and a t-shirt is absolutely acceptable for those days where you just cannot handle the stress and effort of dressing nicely.

It's not okay if: bum days not only entail unflattering clothes, but a lack of hygiene as well. Students already have to see you in your natural state; we do not want to have to smell it too. When we say it is okay to put in little effort, we do not mean zero effort. If you think that deodorant and toothpaste are optional, you are severely mistaken. Be courteous to the noses of your peers, and take the five minutes each day to attend to your hygiene. Although you may be going for the bum look, make sure that you are not wearing the same exact thing you slept in, as sleeping is not the cleanest activity. Do not be a selfish, smelly hobo; we are giving you a pass for slacking with your clothes, so do not abuse it.

Consider everyone's senses of smell, and don't turn “bum days” into hallway clearing days due to your appalling stench. Remember, high school is a time for you to take chances, just not ones that can get you arrested. Do not be afraid to speak up, unless it's about something you know to be completely ridiculous. High school is a confusing time, and with these tips we hope that you start making the right choices.

CRUSHES:

It's okay if: you have found yourself a hunky piece of man or a groovy gal that you have the hots for, and it is completely normal if you develop a little crush on them. Take the chance. You will forever regret the missed opportunity if you chicken out. If you like someone, there is no reason to be embarrassed. Go for it.

It's not okay if: you can answer two or more of the following questions: Do you like someone? Do you use binoculars to look into windows? Do you frequently find yourself in bushes or trees or in a car with the lights shut off? Are you currently in a bush looking into your crushes window with said binoculars? If these situations sound familiar, then you have reached the stalker level, and you should probably back off if you do not want a restraining order in your future. There is a fine line between having feelings for someone, and being a complete stalker. You must make sure you do not cross that line.

OPINIONS:

It's okay if: you have opinion about things that other people may disagree with. Having an opinion is healthy; it is what adds diversity to conversations and life. We are not saying you have to share your thoughts and opinions, but do not be afraid of doing so.

It's not okay if: the only reasoning for your opinion is “just because.” If this is the case, take a look in the mirror: Is being argumentative and annoying the type of person you want to be? If your opinion does not have solid facts to back up your stance on any topic, you probably should not go shoving it down everyone else's throats. There is chance that you will come off as ill-informed and uneducated on the issue. Be aware that, it is in fact, a possibility for you to be wrong.

Not so pretty in pink

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor and Ty Eldridge '14, Assitant Photo Editor

The unwritten “code” of entering high school and subsequently having to find love seems like such a foreign subject to even consider now that many BHS students have forgotten about the once yearned for status of having a significant other. During the middle school years, kids idolized any John Hughes movie like *Sixteen Candles* or *The Breakfast Club*, day dreaming of becoming a high school student and entering a teen romantic comedy. Unfortunately, the modern way of dating has transformed into a hopeless maze with no apparent way out. Dating is supposed to be the voyage through which two people find out if they are compatible enough to start a serious relationship with each other. Many of us think that this is the case, yet the dating game has turned into a series of false hopes and constant miscommunications on the part of both men and women due to what movies and social media has set us up to believe.

Although this may not be true for some, for others, dating has evolved into something new and awkward. “I don't even know if dating exists anymore. People just kind of get together,” senior Ava Dorsch said. In expectation,

the lives of any high school student world very much resembles the life of a high school student in any Hughes movie, but in reality, teenagers throw away any chance of relationships and turn them into what many of us know all too well as having a “thing.” Without having that official “boyfriend/girlfriend” title, boys have become more self-absorbed and girls have begun to settle for less than they deserve. “I don't really think guys take girls out on dates anymore, and I like that because it costs a lot less,” senior Stephen Wroe said. Dating has become weird and difficult and movies have had a huge effect on this, brainwashing teens into thinking that a person like John Cusack will stand outside with a boom box under a girl's window playing the perfect love song.

Now that the world is tech savvy, teens hide behind the comfort of their phones failing to make real life relationships materialize. In the age of social media, everyone is in your business. Relationships are connected to social media. A simple like, comment, or poke can be taken way out of context. With instagram, teens can compare themselves to the happy couple, always trying to

appear a certain way. Their happiness is the envy of your newsfeed. Everyone tries to emulate this relationship, but in reality nothing is flowery anymore. Instagram and Twitter give teens the feeling of missing out on the perfect relationship. They beef everything up about a person, when in reality, people are different.

Movies are fantasies, not realities. Let go of the dreamy depiction of the perfect date you saw in your favorite movie and accept the fact that romantic comedies failed to prepare us all for the real world. It is hard to accept the fact that your life is not a plot in a movie in which a love interest is obligated to appear at some point and end up happily ever after. It is up to teenagers to step outside of the box and realize the reality that dating as a naïve high school student is hard and may be way different from their expectations. When it is time for you to find a guy or gal, it will happen; don't force love because you saw it happen that way in a movie. Being realistic and patient can go a long way. Stay hopeful.

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The one where we all reunite

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Business/ Ad Manager

Unfortunately, no one knows about what is happening in the lives of the characters we used to fall asleep to at night, or the ones who could always find a way to cheer us up with a bit of comedy, since their lives were just words on a script. It is not fair that the classic TV shows of the past had to come to an end. These legendary characters were there for us whenever we needed someone to turn to. We know what is happening in the lives of the actors who played these people, but what would be occurring in the lives of the fictional characters? Well, to give the devastated fans a bit of closure, here's a glimpse of what is happening in the lives of characters from our once favorite TV shows:

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Monica
Geller

Rachel and
Ross

The long running show left off with a fairly thin Monica, who was married to Chandler Bing. In fact, the happy couple had just adopted twins. We all know about Monica's troubled past involving food, in high school, Monica would devour anything that was in her reach. She had also always been a neat-freak, and any sort of mess caused an unhealthy amount of anxiety. Today, the twins are the polar opposite of her in which they do not clean messes but create them. It is a shame that the constant mess her children make resulted in a nervous breakdown and subsequent frantic cleaning to come over Monica because after one mess was cleaned, another one was made. Monica, sadly, has reverted to her old habits due to this stress and will appear on the next season of *The Biggest Loser*.

At the end of the show, Rachel got off the plane to Paris and stayed in New York for Ross. Us fans were left with so many questions. To provide us with relief, Phoebe Buffay had the courtesy to fill us in on their relationship. "Yeah, they started dating again and got married. Whoo! But the whole 'we were on a break thing' still causes tension whenever they fight because Ross once hooked up with a girl while they were on a break from dating. Rachel has never gotten over that. Also, when Rachel tells Ross that just because he is a paleontologist does not mean he is a doctor, it starts a series of arguments. Good thing for their daughter, Emma, Rachel never stuck her head in the oven, unlike my mom," past *FRIEND* group member, Buffay said.

FULL HOUSE

Uncle
Jesse

D.J.
Tanner

As we know, Uncle Jesse always had a love for music, while girl fans of the show had a love for him and his dashing good looks. Yet his dedication to his family, his radio show, and his club never let him soar with his true passion. Turns out that his music career did not get him very far, yet information about his radio show business was recently revealed. Little did us previous *Full House* viewers know, Uncle Jesse and his family packed their bags and headed to the Detroit area soon after the series ended, leaving KFLH 95 behind. In Michigan, Jesse gave himself a stage name: Mojo. Using that name he started a new radio station that we all know and love as 95.5.

The wise, older sister in the Tanner family is now a teacher at Beverly High in California. She has a pleasant, simplistic life not as simplistic as her dumb friend Kimi, living in DJ's garage and is married to her high school boyfriend, Steve, with two children. After winning the lottery, and receiving a million dollars, DJ abused her privilege and developed some bad, illegal habits involving the usage of drugs. Just around this time, DJ was lucky enough to have a random run in with Steve. He was able to help her get through this rough patch in her life, yet, little did they know the journey back to sobriety was also the two's journey to love again. Don't fear, DJ has been sober for five years now.

Huey Mack: bringing it since 2009

Madison Huff '15, Bull's Eye Editor

Joseph Dalton Michael, better known as Huey Mack, is an American hip-hop artist from Morgantown, West Virginia. He is an underground rapper who recently made a big splash when he came out with his new album *Pretending Perfection*. Mack not only writes his own lyrics, but brings personal experiences into them as well. Beginning his career at the ripe age of 18, Mack released his first mix tape in 2009 and gained a cult-like fan following as a result of his meaningful and relatable lyrics.

The Crofoot, located in Pontiac, presented Mack on Sunday, Feb. 9. He performed in the Pike Room as one of the many stops on his *Pretending Perfection* Tour. The Pike Room at The Crofoot holds around 250 people which allows for a more intimate musical experience. Fans of Mack held high expectations for this most recent appearance in the D, and his performance lived up to their standards.

The stage presence Mack possessed helped keep the crowd hyped throughout the entire concert, and

his vocals echoed throughout the venue adding to the overall atmosphere of the venue. Huey Mack sang many of his better known songs like "*Pretending Perfection*," which is the main feature on and title of his newest album. Not to mention, his voice was so on point it sounded like it was straight from the studio.

Overall, the performance was well executed with very few low points. Way to come out to your Michigander fans with a bang, Huey Mack.

WHO AM I WITHOUT YOU?

Ty Eldridge '14, Assistant Photo Editor

Ideally, as teens, we want to know who we truly are immediately and grow into that idea of whom we desire to become. When teens think about who we want to be, most times we scrap together things from different people, images, and ideas.



Photo by Zoe Lask

Teenagers often find it difficult to see their true selves.

president of the United States. In their teenage years, young people truly begin their quest for identity. That quirky adorable kid turns into a confused teen, and they lose their

For example, maybe you want to have a body like the model you saw walking in the Victoria Secret Fashion Show but be able to dress like Drake and have friends just like the ones you saw in a movie. Self-identity is the knowledge of who we are. Every teen reaches a point where they struggle to discover their identity. Identity and ideology relate because as teens, we use ideas to explore who we are. Whether from narratives in movies, clothing stores or brands, it is our nature as teens to want to discover who we are before entering the adult world. We only want to have our own style, but we end up conforming to the ways of society. It seems that nowadays, many of us look to our peers for help instead of being uniquely individual.

Growing up, children are told to dream big. They dream of being artists, going to the Olympics, or even becoming the

carefree, childlike attitude and try to conform to social norms. Teens start trying to satisfy their parents or their friends. Aspirations vanish, career goals change and individuality begins to diminish. Stepping away from conformity takes strength of character that most of us do not possess. "Who am I?" or "What do I want to do?" are questions often repeated by teenagers. Nowadays, everyone wants to be someone else. There is a sense that without having the knowledge of knowing "who" we are, a lot of teens are stuck in limbo, going in circles trying to figure out what they are doing.

Movies and clothing brands seem to have an impact on teens and their ideas of who they are as people. Stores and brands such as Urban Outfitters, Nike and Jordan, lead us to believe that dressing a certain way explains something about us, while movies like *Mean Girls*, and *High School Musical* all portray a misleading and stereotypical narratives of high school life. So we conform to these images that music, brands, shows and movies want us to be. Clothing stores and movies negatively amplify certain aspects about teenage life that they are trying to convey in order to grab the attention of teenage shoppers and viewers. Movies and clothing brands seem to have an impact on teens and who they are trying to be, which relates to why teens gravitate toward people and the appearances that they themselves give off. After connecting with those peers that teens believe they saw portrayed in the movies, they start to develop envious relationships and feelings towards characters and ideas that are in some way superior to their own. Why can't we emerge from behind the shadows of those ideas and define ourselves?

Ironically, the opinions of friends and society are very important factors in this search for individuality. Teenagers tend to gravitate to people and ideas they deem "cool" based on outward appearances. Teenagers are notoriously insecure. We build a sense of self, based on the way others perceive us when in actuality, the only perception that matters is our own.

We as teens should allow ourselves a say in who we are and what we aspire to be. Teens should start discovering their own style, developing their own opinions and making their own choices instead of conforming to the ways of society. In the words of Chuck Palahniuk, "We can spend our lives letting the world tell us who we are. Sane or insane. Saints or sinners. Heroes or victims. Letting history tell us how good or bad we are. Letting our past decide our future. Or we can decide for ourselves. And maybe it's our job to invent something better."

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SPRING BREAK PREPARATION COME TO AN END

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '14, Senior Copy Editor

In anticipation of the upcoming spring break, a student says he has been preparing for the wild event for the last 15 years.

Senior Rick McKae was just two years old when he realized that spring break 2014 was the ultimate trip of a lifetime. "I was playing with my Bop-It and then it suddenly hit me: in 15 years, I'll have the best time of my life in Cancun, Mexico," McKae said. The next day, he began his extensive, lifelong preparation and hasn't paused since then. When he was four, McKae already started to work on his beach body. "It's kind of hard to lift weights when you are a 50 pound kindergartener, but I was too determined to stop," McKae explained. By the time he was six, he had already developed an eye catching six pack. When he was eight, McKae reserved the plane tickets and hotel room for him and his future high school friend he hadn't even met yet. "I wanted everything to go perfect," McKae said, "I really didn't want to look up the tickets in nine years, just to see that everything was sold out."

McKae is not the only one to start preparing early. "We have kids as young as three calling us and reserving plane tickets for their spring break trip," a Delta Airline representative commented. "We have tickets for 2028 ready."

McKae believed spring break will be the best experience of his 17 years in life, however, after going, he was left with mixed emotions. "It was *okay*," McKae concluded disappointedly.

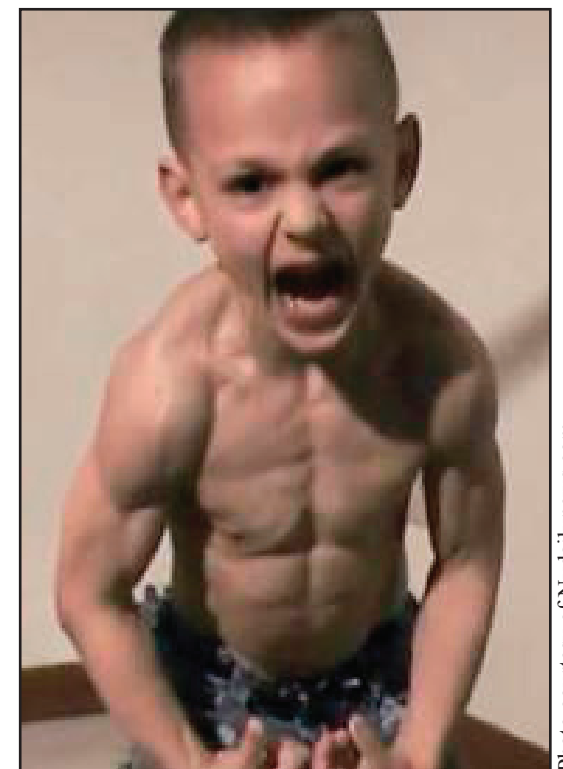


Photo courtesy of Nydailynews.com

SPRING BRRRREEEEEEAAAAAKKKKKKKK!

The POPS and FLOPS of February 2014

Flappy Bird

Zoe Blake '17, Publicity Director

Every time students go on their phones, they have the urge to play the devilish game Flappy Bird. Flappy Bird is not just some game one can play to pass the time, it is a fight to the death between one's self and a tiny yellow bird. When you die in the game, it is devastating enough to ruin one's day completely. It is in one's best interest to not have this game on their phone/iPod because they will quickly become addicted to the emotional roller coaster that is Flappy Bird. One's mental and physical health will suffer as a result of this game.

Good thing it is no longer downloadable.

Daft Punk

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

In an era where celebrities take advantage of their popularity more than ever, these two masked men try to keep their identity anonymous. Daft Punk deservedly won album of the year at the Grammys for *Random Access Memories*, which sold over one million copies and counting. With the help of artist and producer Pharrell Williams, the duo created the most popular song on the album, "Get Lucky," which soared to the top of nearly all pop charts. Daft Punk is one of the most popular and unique musical groups in the world simply because they revolutionized the music industry with their distinct appearance and modernized style of instrumental music.

Sherlock Season 3

Kit Charlton '16, Staff Writer

Now in its third season, BBC's *Sherlock* puts the characters of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* in modern day London. As the world's first consultant detective, Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) uses his incredible mental abilities of deduction and reason to solve mysteries as well as advise the London Police in challenging cases. Martin Freeman delivers a charming performance as Dr. John Watson, Sherlock's assistant and only friend. A plethora of interesting and unsettling villains, who often act too similarly to Sherlock, keep the show exciting and dynamic. With three 90 minute episodes each season, *Sherlock* constantly keeps the viewer guessing. The first two seasons are currently available on Netflix.

Parking Lot

Joshua Radom '16, Student Life Editor

The student parking lot is not operating as well as it should be this year. First off, there is a parent invasion every morning and afternoon. This conflicts with the student driver's ability to move around the **student** parking lot. This winter, the maintenance of the lot has not been able to keep up with the snowpocalypse. The pavement becomes slippery, and the lack of clearance also makes it hard for drivers to see where the lines are. The upkeep of the lot and acknowledgement that the lot is a student lot are two crucial aspects that would make the parking lot a safer and more stress-free environment.

Kendrick Lamar

Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer

Kendrick Lamar has evolved in the past four years to be known as one of, if not the best, rapper in the game right now. This year, Lamar's new album, *Good Kid M.A.A.D City*, was nominated for Best Album of the Year at the 2014 Grammys. This was Kendrick's second studio album, and his third album available on iTunes. Although Lamar did not receive any awards at the Grammys, many music enthusiasts truly believed he deserved to come out victorious. Multi-Grammy award winner Macklemore told Lamar, "You got robbed." This legend-in-the-making has great potential and is setting himself up for heaps of future success.

THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

How can anyone compare to the athletic king of recent BHS history, 2011 graduate Terrell Porter? It is high praise to even be mentioned in the same sentence as the once immortalized figure, but to be the subject of an article designed around the athlete is almost unheard of. To qualify for the honor of being the subject of a The Man, The Myth, The Legend article, an athlete must not only clearly dominate his sport at BHS and in the OAA, but they must also bring an extra element to the table, one that really gets the people going.

Junior Jon Radner does more than just get the people going, he gets the BHS faithful off their feet after every acrobatic drive to the basket. While very different from the former BHS running back and linebacker, Radner's celebrity status around BHS is approaching levels only Porter has achieved. But who is this Radner kid and why does he deserve this honor? Not everyone can step up against our school's rivals, the Royal Oak Ravens, by scoring 35 points and carrying the Bears to a key victory, but Jon Radner can.

However, great moments like the one against Royal Oak didn't come to Radner out of pure luck; he has worked tirelessly since he was a young kid to reach this point. His interest in the game grew from simply watching the movement of the game as a youngster. Although Radner started playing the sport back in his elementary school years, at that time his focus was on another high-energy activity, soccer. Radner played soccer primarily until seventh grade when he quit futbol to pursue his interest in basketball. After seeing the great potential he had on the court, Radner began seriously focusing his attention on improving his skills by attending sessions with personal trainers. He continued his passion for improvement into high school as he has seen progress in many areas of his game. "My moves attacking the basket and finishing have just gotten so much better; I feel like I keep improving," Radner said.

As Radner has progressed through high school, his game on the court has flourished. While in his first couple campaigns with the Bears the team struggled to pull out important victories. However, with a stronger set of teammates, the Bears have ditched some of their losing habits and put together a much improved season in 2013-2014. Radner will be the first person to tell you that he cannot receive all the credit for the team's turn around. "It's really a team effort. I'm having a good year, but other people on the team are playing very well too. The success is as a unit," Radner said. He is clearly a team player that recognizes that while he does many things for the team, none of them would be possible without his teammates. All his work led up to that fateful game against Royal Oak on Jan. 9 when he was perfect from downtown going seven for seven on his way to 35 points and a win. This game stood out to Radner because the team was able to pull out the victory. Although he has scored a lot of points in many other games, the team has lost, and like the true team player Radner is, he said that the stats didn't mean much to him.

There are many exceptional athletes here at BHS. Few can say they dominate a sport such as Radner does, but even fewer can say they dominate two. Yes, that special something extra about Radner is not a cool talent like juggling or card tricks; it is another sport here at BHS. This fall, Radner played four doubles on the BHS varsity tennis team with partner, sophomore Spencer Lee. The duo destroyed their competition going undefeated together until the regional meet. Yet the best was still to come for the team at the division II MHSAA state finals when they upset the six-seed Portage central in the second round, then proceeded to nearly take out eventual state champion, three-seed Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central. Radner transfers much of his energy from his basketball game to the tennis court. "He never quit, he always kept going and never gave up. -He had that never lose mentality," Lee said.



Bears' superstar Radner breaks to the hoop and puts it in for two.

Photo courtesy of Moe Joyce Fernandez

Together, Radner and Lee combined to have a lot of fun on the court while taking down the competition in a very athletic manner. Lee also noticed that Radner can get to any ball in tennis much like he can scrap to get any ball on the basketball court. Although Radner focuses much of his attention on basketball in the offseason, he still takes tennis very seriously and enjoys being competitive with the team. Much like Porter, who excelled on the basketball court in addition to being a football star, Radner also has that extra push in his life that sets him above the rest.

When he is not training or playing basketball, or playing tennis, Radner enjoys just hanging out with his friends. "I'm very social...I just like being in the presence of my friends," Radner said. So, in addition to having his time consumed with two sports, Radner still has time to be a social butterfly. The star basketball and tennis player adds that extra aspect to his sport that makes him in the class of the immortal Terrell Porter. BHS is lucky to have two superstar athletes at their school in such close proximity to each other because physical specimens like them only come around every couple decades.

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**Nov. 24- Dec. 17 (M T W) 5:00-7:00

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March 18-20 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

April 29- May 1 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

June 3-5 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

July 8-10 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

August 5-7 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

October 14- 16 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

November (T W TH) 5:00-7:00

NBA: NATIONAL BORING ASSOCIATION

Drew Leshman '17, Co-Circulation Manager

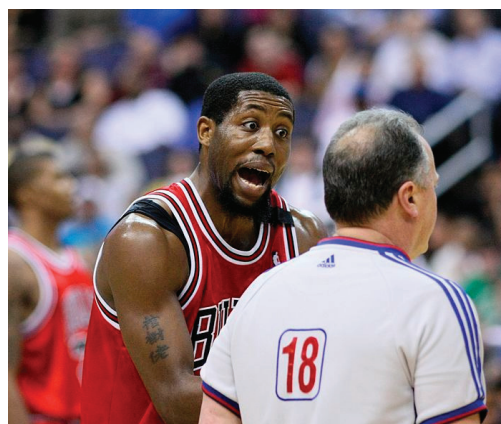
Over the past ten years, the NBA has certainly transformed for the worse. Of course there are still an enormous amount of fans across the country who love to watch the NBA, but there are many spectators that are starting to find the slowed down game tedious and a great waste of their time. Professional basketball is meant to be an energetic game for players and viewers alike, however, the way the NBA is set up now is not as exhilarating to watch as it was in the 80s and 90s; players are now putting forth less effort.

The NBA is losing popularity as TV ratings have fallen nearly 45 percent in the last decade according to ESPN. “[In] the NBA, although there are multiple highlights, there is very little defense,” sophomore Jordan Zimmerman said. Nowadays, players’ poor defensive effort as a whole clearly reflects their lack of care and passion for the game by not running a zone defense and playing man defense when it is clearly not the right decision. Evidently, the old sports saying “defense wins championships” is no longer valued in the NBA.

Basketball fans across the world find it hard to enjoy the NBA, which is unfortunate, considering it was one of the most popular things to watch on TV back in its golden days when Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson were competing. “I love watching old replays of [Jordan and Johnson] because they brought more excitement to the game than players do now,” freshman Dana McDowell said. When they were around, the NBA was more of a team sport and players had their mind set on improving as a team, unlike how it is now as a vast amount of players are only worried about their personal stats. Players like LeBron James and Kevin Durant, who average between

25 and 30 points a game, only continue to prove the idea of selfish playing styles in the NBA.

Every day, fans are changing their views towards the NBA and finding new aspects of the game that they dislike. Some players just think they can abuse the rules and do whatever they want. “I don’t like how none of the



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NBA players and fans alike get frustrated about the officials game after game.

referees call [infractions] like traveling, and how players think it is okay to just walk with the ball,” freshman Sam Koretz said. Fans are not happy with the problem of how the players commit stupid fouls, and how the referees do not call obvious infractions like traveling and double dribbling. Players like Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and LeBron James are some of the league’s top players known for flopping, or exaggerating a foul. It is an insult to their intelligence when players do this, as fans just want to watch basketball, not players attracting attention to

themselves for foolish reasons.

College basketball is taking over the NBA one step at a time. The NCAA has many more teams, and unlike NBA athletes, the players have a meaningful purpose to play. Amateurs participate not because they are getting paid like in the NBA, but because they are trying to achieve their dream of playing the sport they love professionally. “[College] is more competitive; the kids are playing for a purpose,” junior Kortland Avant said. Avant continued, “They are trying to make it into the NBA.” In college basketball, the players want to win the National Championship, and they also aim to score an NBA contract. NBA players have already accomplished a large part of their goals which was making it to the professional league. Of course winning a championship is as important to them as it is to anyone, but they are getting paid, so no matter what happens, they are still promised their millions of dollars. College players have a different force driving them to winning a championship over NBA players. That includes the wild student sections and intense rivalries which all helps them to make it into the big league. “They aren’t going out and giving 110 percent, but college kids are,” Avant added. It is clear that college kids approach the game more seriously than NBA players and in turn try harder, thus making it more enjoyable for fans.

The NBA continues to disappoint people, and in effect, fans continue to change their view of the once thrilling league. It will be interesting to see what the NBA has up their sleeve, whether they stay persistent with their normal methods, or decide to switch some of their techniques to retrieve some of their lost fans.

COLLEGE RECRUITS FORCED TO DEAL WITH IMMENSE PRESSURE

Josh Segall '17, Co-Circulation Manager

While most high school athletes are competing for fun, it is much more than just a game for others. When talented high school athletes perform at an elite level, they may get swarmed with attention from college recruiters. Being recruited could lead to scholarships, potentially giving the athlete the possibility of a free college education. This puts monumental pressure on these heavily recruited teenagers which means one mistake can destroy their hopes of going to college to play the sport they love.

Even for non-athletes, grades are vital in determining the options one has on where they go to college and at what cost. However, for high school players, an inadequate GPA could result in scholarships being withdrawn and, subsequently, revoked admission to that university or college. “You have to really hold yourself to a certain standard so that your scholarships won’t get taken away,” junior Ken Black said. Black continued, “You have to make sure your grades are good and be on time to all your classes.”

“You [have to] watch what you say on social media and be careful about your decisions,” previous BHS sophomore Tyrone Lyte said. Social media, particularly Twitter, has become infamous for wreaking havoc on college recruits. One bad tweet or Instagram post could easily ruin an athlete’s chance at a scholarship.

Senior Shelby Allen has recently received a lot of college attention due to her elite ability in track and field, specifically the triple jump and long jump. Allen is considering attending either Illinois State, Tennessee, or San Diego State. Right now Allen is definitely feeling the immense pressure of being a college recruit. “Me and my entire family [are under pressure] right now. I [still] have to get the jumps to get in somewhere,” Allen said.

The most recent local incident of a scholarship being potentially revoked happened

to local Cass Tech High School junior Jayru Campbell, who is currently the Detroit high school’s starting quarterback. Campbell is verbally committed to attend Michigan State University in the fall of 2015, but a cell phone video recently leaked on social media of an altercation between Campbell and a security guard at Cass Tech in which the quarterback picked up the security guard and body slammed him to the ground. There has not yet been word about Campbell’s scholarship situation or even his legal status where he may be facing assault charges.

Many wonder if Campbell’s attitude had changed since being under the microscope of college scouts and even some college sports analysts. Lyte played youth football with Campbell as his quarterback just a few years ago. “[Campbell] is a good kid. He’s not that type of guy,” Lyte said. He continued, “He was always a leader on and off the field.” Having his destiny in his own hands, the overwhelming pressure may have affected Campbell.

Similar to many student-athletes before him, Campbell had a poor lapse in judgment. MSU has not yet made it known how they plan to deal with Campbell’s scholarship, but Campbell has to shape up so he does not hurt his chances any worse than they already are.

Other college recruits must take a lesson from Campbell in that they must be prepared to deal with all the pressure of being under the microscope. Every move made will be pinpointed and targeted to find fault. Several bad grades, immature remarks, or inappropriate gestures on social media sites or in person will negatively affect these talented student-athletes. All in all, college recruits must simply avoid making negligent decisions.

Winter Olympics: intriguing sports

Bennett Hart '16, Sports Editor

Arguably the most interesting thing about the Olympics is that some of the most intriguing sports are also the most overlooked events. Some of this year's winter sports, most have never even heard of. Even a hardcore sports fanatic in the United States would probably have trouble explaining the nordic combined, winter biathlon, or the difference between the skeleton, bobsled, and luge.

Nordic combined has been in the Olympics since the original Winter Games back in 1924. At first, the event consisted of competitive cross country skiing for 18 km. and then ski jumping. The person with the most points throughout both components of the event wins the gold medal. In this Olympics, 55 people from 15 different nations competed in the nordic combined events between Feb. 12 and 20. In this particular Olympics there were numerous courses of varying lengths.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The biathlon is easily the most interesting competition at the Winter Olympics. Although the term biathlon can be used to describe any two-sport event, in the Olympic Games it most often refers to the combination of cross country skiing and rifle shooting. In Sochi, there were 11 biathlon events that range from men's and women's mass starts, timed events, relays and the mixed relay which debuted for the first time in this year's Olympic Games. What makes this sport so interesting is that in all biathlon events the athletes must carry their rifle (about 7.7 lb.) throughout the entire competition. Cross country skiing with a heavy rifle on one's back for anywhere from 7.5 to 15 km (4.7 to 9.3 miles) figures to be quite tiring, which is what sets the stage for the most exciting part of the event—the shooting.

As the skiers begin to arrive at the shooting stations, they start firing at their targets; the person who hits all five targets the fastest, while avoiding penalties for misses, must then finish with a short ski to the finish line in order to win. In many sports, men are considered superior, but interestingly enough; women are often better at the shooting portion of the biathlon because they can stay focused for longer, even after completing the long skiing course. On Feb. 8, Norway's 40 year old Ole Einar Bjoerndalen won the 10 km. sprint event with just one shooting penalty and a total time of 24:33.5. This was Bjoerndalen's twelfth Olympic medal which ties the record for most medals won for all-time.

Some of the most intriguing sports in the Winter Olympics should not be overlooked because many of the world's best athletes participate in them. It is advised that everyone check out some sports they have never heard of prior to this Olympics. You will not be disappointed.

Winter sports review

Bennett Hart '16, Sports Editor and Adam Yaker '17, Staff Writer



The Bears' center attempts to win the opening tip.



A Bears' defenseman dumps the puck into the zone.

Photos courtesy of Moe Joyce Fernandez

Hockey- The Berkley Unified hockey team is having a very exciting season. They have a 13-5-2 record as of Feb. 11, despite losing many key members from their last campaign. Additionally, the team won the invitational that they hosted in January, shutting out Shrine high school in the tournament's championship game, 1-0. As of Feb. 1, the Bears were ranked 22nd overall in Michigan and eighth in division II. Newcomer sophomore Evan Tarnopol said, "I have improved so much this year. It has been a challenging year though." The whole team has had to adapt new roles that many of last year's senior leaders occupied. Luckily, the Bears have done a great job of learning on the fly and have lived up to their lofty expectations so far this season.

Competitive Cheer- The BHS competitive cheer team has never had more spirit! The Bears' cheerleaders are currently sitting at third in the OAA, and recently finished first at an all-OAA meet. Sophomore Callaghan TysonMayer said, "[Our season] is going really [well], but we lost some people during the season." The team had a huge competition on Feb. 8 that featured a ton of teams. TysonMayer said, "We did not do great but the competition was very big. Everyone on the team is still together though." The competitive cheer team performed at districts on the weekend of Feb. 15.

Wrestling- The mats are down and the Bear's wrestling team is carrying out a much more impressive season than last year. Improving from the 1-5 campaign last year, Coach Dave Roche has worked his team and the team's skill and tournament placing's shows progress. At the recent league meet, both sophomore Vinny Tenaglia and senior Aaron Parr-Besemor placed second out of their entire weight class. Unfortunately, the team missed several practices, three meets, and two tournaments due to the numerous snow days. Without the inclement weather conditions, who knows how much the team could've improved.

Swim- The BHS mens swim team has been very successful this year posting a 3-1 record in their league. Sophomore distance swimmer Caleb Duchan said, "We won all our league meets by a lot. I have only lost one of my [races] this year." The team's season is coming to an end as the boys have recently had counties, the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet (M.I.S.C.A.) and leagues. Although the team will only have one representative at the state meet this year, senior diver Stuart Oleinick, they have had a fantastic season. The Bearracudas are exceeding expectations in the pool, despite losing multiple state level swimmers from last year.

Basketball- The Bears must be making their shots and grabbing boards because the boys' varsity basketball team is 5-6. The highly skilled team is very exciting to watch, and the league title is not too far out of their reach. The team's leading scorer and one of the top scorers in the OAA, junior Jon Radner, does not fail to put up big numbers day in and day out for the squad. "The season is going very well, we have a good team this year, better than last year. I think we will go farther than last season," senior Dennis Bevza said. The Bears have won more games this season, which is just past halfway over, than they did all of last year finishing with a 4-16 record.

Bowling- The varsity bowling team is having a relatively successful 2013-2014 season. Right now the 3-3 bears are showing great skill and improvement from previous years as the bowlers continue to grow in skill from great coaching by head coach Rob Arnie. There is still much room for improvement for the team as they lost a couple of strong bowlers from last year. "Our team is pretty good this year, but we are not at the caliber that we were at last year," senior Reno Max said. The team is looked great all year considering the the people they lost from last year.

Check yoself befo' you wreck yoself

Shelby Silver '14, Managing Editor

There are 1,250 students at BHS and more than half have no idea what they are getting themselves into once they walk off the stage with their diploma at Meadowbrook.

A majority of the 279 graduating seniors of 2014 will be entering college with the knowledge of how to solve a math problem like the following instead of learning how to balance a check book and save money for college and life expenses:

$$(3x^2-27)(8x^2) 6$$

$$4(9-3x)(x^2+3x)$$

Instead of thinking about what lies outside the BHS walls, we choose to take classes like Calc BC or Algebra 2 because they will “look really good on college applications,” and in the long run, we end up trying to figure out how these types of classes will benefit us when it comes time to get a real job. And really, when will anyone ever need to use the above equation unless you're a mathematician of some sort? Most likely, never.

My dear pal Veronica Marchese, who is now a freshman at MSU, wrote a column last year explaining her regrets about not taking a class like Money Matters and how a class that teaches students how to prepare themselves for real-world situations is much more beneficial than taking a class that teaches you how to invert the square root of something. I am here writing this in a plea to take her advice (along with mine), and to think about what you need to do in order to live a life without looking like an incompetent fool when it is time for you to enter the big boy world.

Instead of choosing to live a life of an amateur mathematician by taking ridiculously hard classes like so many others do, senior Jenna Apostal shed some light on why taking a class like Money Matters is a marvelous decision. She said, “Money Matters actually teaches you what to do in the real world. [The class] really sets you up for what to expect and how to deal with financial situations, and that's really important.” Like Apostal, just 70 other seniors out of 279 stumbled their way into what they thought was going to be an uber “senior blow off class” and are now learning ways to finance their way to life success.

Let me ask you this my fellow hominids: do you know how to pay or even apply for student loans? Save your money in a smart way? File your taxes? Set up your own bank account? And lastly, do you have any idea how expensive things like bills can get? I didn't either until I made the smartest decision of my high school career and took the classes Applied Personal and Money Matters taught by math teacher Mrs. Jessica Sandviet and marketing teacher Ms. Beth Cameron. Unlike Marchese, I am currently taking this class and am learning things that never would have crossed my mind until I came across that said situation in the future.

In three months and 22 days, the BHS class of 2014 will open the doors to what we, as naïve students, think as “the real world.” Every one of us seniors are ready for more English, science, math and history classes thanks to the hard work of our teachers (special thanks to Ms. Emily Mullins), but what 12 years of chuggin' through school like the little engine that (barely) could didn't prepare us for is what life is going to throw at us when we leave the shelter of our parents homes.

The requirements that students are forced to coincide with are getting horrendously repetitive year after year with no new and meaningful material that one could take away for the future. “To me, I think it's crazy that Algebra 2 is mandated by the state of Michigan,” Cameron said. The finance guru continued and said, “... If you're 22 or 23 and you realize that you don't understand money, banking and investing and that you don't get how money works in our society, you're probably already in debt [and] you're probably spending more money than you make; it doesn't make sense to me that we don't send our kids into the world without financial sense.”

Along with the essential core classes, taking a class like Applied Personal or Money Matters should be required to take as a senior. Because of this class, I'm going into college knowing what to do with my money and knowing how to finance my life without much struggle instead of stumbling blindly into a university while spending money on books and other recreational things like there's no tomorrow. I understand that there are some BHS students who do understand how to support themselves and already have some experience of financing their way through life. But for the ones who don't, I suggest that you check yoself befo' you wreck yoself and be warned that your parents or legal guardians won't be there to clean up your financial messes for much longer.

Learning to accept our perfect imperfections

Jake Rothman '14, Editor-in-Chief

After the applications are completed, the essays are submitted, the scholarship questionnaires are filled out, and next year's enrollment payment is deposited, the real scary aspect about college takes over. No, the time spent paying off the tens of thousands you accumulate in college debt and the most challenging four years of education you will experience does not even compare to the frightening decision of deciding who to room with during your freshman year away at university.

Some may say the decision is a simple one: just room with someone who seems “fun.” But what exactly defines a fun person? Someone who is fun is certainly a person you can go out and have a good time with, but there is a lot more to college than just enjoying yourself. Sure, many of us hear that these next four years will be the most exciting years of our lives, but ensuring that we got off on the right foot in our new home requires perfection when picking our freshman year roommate. Not only is everyone looking for the typical, yet vaguely defined, “fun” person though, they also want someone who is clean, listens to similar music, takes their studies seriously, watches the same TV shows, and, in essence, a perfect roommate. However, the main stipulation with that kind of person is that the best friend, party goer, homework doing, sports loving, music aficionado does not exist in this ideal form. Expecting perfection out of a potential roommate is natural for all of us, however, the only way we achieve any form of happiness in this situation is to sacrifice some of our coveted holy expectations for roommates. As accepting people, we have to be able to learn to adapt to our future roommate's imperfections, as well as settling on the fact that we ourselves are not exemplary roommates or human beings either. To lower our own expectations for our future living partners, we must take into account that all people have their smelly, messy, tired side. The imperfections will be there regardless; what matters is if these people add a new dynamic to our lives, and if we can respect that person for who they are.

Many of us students have not yet accepted the fact that we will not be able to find the person who can give us the flawless roommate experience we so covet. Conversely, many of us are still yet to come to terms with the sacrifices we will have to make to even attain satisfaction in the roommate conundrum. This is primarily due to the general answers and lack of specificity on popular roommate search sites. Unfortunately, many people find their freshman year roommate by searching through roommate matching websites like Roomsurf.com. Services like these are great if you are looking for thousands of people making themselves look as exemplary as possible compared to the person next to them. This post is usually coupled with a little info blurb about yourself in a “class of 2018” Facebook group. The major problem with these two options is that you only get the drastically enhanced version of who that person is. Receiving the perfect version of everyone provides more than just a façade of that person's true personality, it also instills the mindset that this is how roommates should be. Perfection has become the new normal to expect from roommate searches, and with these heightened anticipation comes more room for disappointment.

As prospective roommates, we forge into the process looking for someone who can be our perfect compliment: the yin to our yang, the Robin to our Batman, the Pippin to our Jordan. We all want to look as cool and perfect and awesome as possible in our bios and, in turn, have others look just as gnarly and sweet and radical in theirs because any deviation from what is seen as “regular” is a potential red flag for searches. But to find this ideal match, we must comb through thousands of similarly situated people who want look like Mr. or Ms. multi-faceted, and diverse fun person who can change your freshman year for the better. The problem with this format is that when perfection becomes the standard for everyone, there is no actual diversity among the roommates. We all want to look like the perfect roommate for others and have them be the perfect roommate in return. Instead, we should all be listing our flaws and bad habits so others can know what compromises they might need to be willing to make to live with us. In that way, we can ditch our search for *that* person who will totally change our perspective on life, and, instead, settle for the one we will have a great time with but, more importantly, be least annoyed with. In situations like this where perfection appears to be norm, the person who is the most tolerant with their potential roommate's pesky behavior looks to be the gold standard.

If rooming with your best friend or rooming blind had the extensive problems the websites have then I would give them equal representation. However, these options do receive their share of scrutiny for promising a diverse, do-it-from-scratch experience (blind), and an already cohesive relationship (best friend). But all too often roommates' still sky high expectations cause the best friends to fight for knowing each other too well. Or on the other hand, rooming blind and receiving a roommate who causes you to self-destruct. In any of the instances, nobody is looking for a roommate with obvious flaws, we all want the person at the peak of the roommate spectrum, but that person does not exist. All incoming freshman need to take a step back and realize that we need to lower our expectations on the subject because while we all may crave the ideal roommate, that person isn't sending you a message anytime soon. Having everyone fluff themselves up to create the Messiah of all roommates only makes an unreliable system where complete happiness cannot be delivered. But complete happiness is not what we should want; part of college is surely one's ability to stop judging people for who they want them to be and, rather, accept them for who they are. If all of us as seniors can take that step early and take people for all the wacky things they do then, and only then, will a roommate become actually perfect.