



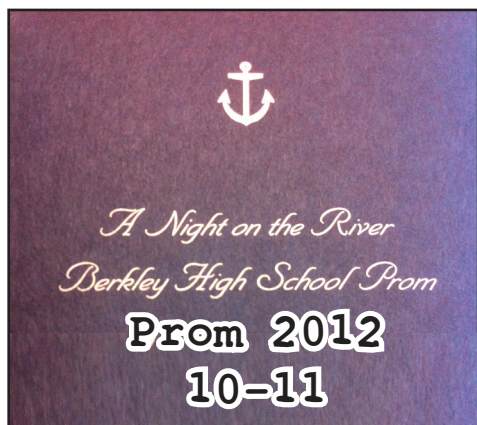
# SPECTATOR

April 2012

Volume LXIV, Issue VII Berkley High School



Superintendent  
Shuffle 4



*A Night on the River*  
*Berkley High School Prom*  
Prom 2012  
10-11



Experience  
A Hallway  
Adventure 12



Berkley Baseball  
Begins 16

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## HOROSCOPES

Sam Lubinecky '12, Managing Editor and Layout Director



**Aries: March 21 - April 19**  
Happy Birthday to all Aries! Only a few more weeks until the end of school, and time will fly by. These next couple of weeks will entail many new adventures. Do not be overly confident in your decisions, as it may come back to haunt you. A key thing to learn this month is patience; good things will all come in time.



**Taurus: April 20 - May 20**  
Happy birthday to all Tauruses! People will be drawn to you this month. You will obtain any resources you need and/or desire. Summer is coming up and a fresh start will be granted, whether it is in college or next school year.



**Gemini: May 21 - June 20**  
Your ability to get along with others will be superb this month. Do not get involved with petty drama, it is not worth it. Try to stay focused on what really matters. Fully listen to what people are telling you, or there could be a horrible misunderstanding.



**Cancer: June 21 - July 22**  
Your grades will either go south or north, depending on what your grades are now. Be conscious that every term counts, even the fourth one! You will need to work extra hard this month to stay on track.



**Leo: July 23 - August 23**  
You will feel very motivated to end this school year strong. The end of the year is right around the corner, so keep it up. Unfortunately, being patient is not your strong suit (and let's be honest it is not really anyone's strong suit), but now is a good time to learn.



**Virgo: August 24 - September 23**  
You tend to enjoy the finer things in life, who doesn't? Unfortunately, this month is no time to splurge. Big events are happening and it is time to start saving. You may be faced with a group project, so take charge and make sure everyone does their part.



**Libra: September 24 - October 22**  
You will soon grow very frustrated with several changing scenarios. Communicate with people and truly listen to what they say. Unfortunately, most of the time you cannot rely on others. So step up and do things yourself, and you will see that things get done that way.



**Scorpio: October 23 - November 21**  
Regardless if you organize your backpack or your room, some form of spring cleaning will be necessary. Your patience and determination will be brought to light this month and summer will be here sooner than you think.



**Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21**  
Within the blink of an eye you will find yourself madly in love. You will feel significant and eager, but you could make rash decisions if you are attracted to someone, so watch out! Do not rush into anything.



**Capricorn: December 22 - January 19**  
There will be an aura of romance and new opportunities whether you are single or in a relationship. But, you will start to feel a tad uneasy and defensive. Before you snap realize what you are doing. People are not being malicious, you just may be taking things the wrong way.



**Aquarius: January 20 - February 18**  
A ton of school functions are sneaking up quickly, and a lot of planning will have to take place. Make sure you are prepared for the worst case scenario. Any disagreements you have with others will smooth over in no time, so do not think too much of them.



**Pisces February 19 - March 20**  
If you have a hunch, go with it. Your intuition will be fully intact with reality this month so do not be afraid to take a risk. A friend or loved one will be overly needy this month, and being straight up with them by telling them to stop will benefit you greatly.

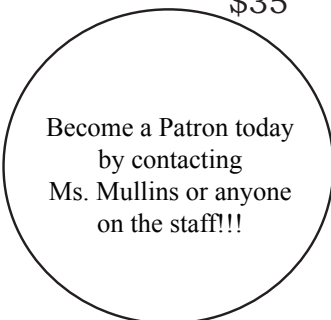
## PATRONS



**Bronze**  
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The Cohen Family

**Silver**  
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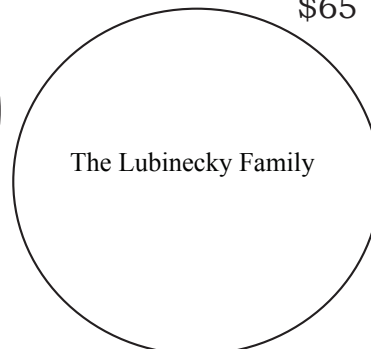
Become a Patron today  
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Ms. Mullins or anyone  
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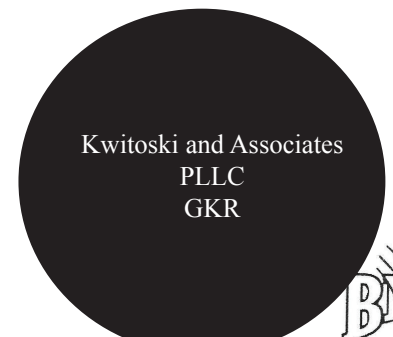
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Congratulations to Michigan PTA State Reflections Art Contest winners from BHS:

**Melissa Riley** received an excellence award for her photography titled *Different Does Not Matter*

**Bailey McMillian** received a merit award for her musical composition titled *Light and Dark*

**Aaron Gross** received a merit award for his film production titled *A Diverse Family*



Congratulations Mrs. Tess Ferrara on becoming the 2012 Berkley High School Teacher of the Year!




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## 4 THE SPECTATOR

## Plant Your Roots keeps alumni connected

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor, Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

Plant Your Roots is an organization aimed at using the environment as a tool to reconnect alumni to their alma mater. The project was created by students in an effort to beautify the BHS campus while fulfilling their desire to give back to the community. In order to create a way for graduates to leave a lasting impression on BHS, four current sophomores, Allison Archambault, Lauren Boyd, and both writers of this piece, established a non-profit organization called Plant Your Roots. This organization, designed to solve three major problems in the Berkley community, works to help alumni reconnect with their Alma Mater, while also reducing Berkley's carbon footprint, and beautifying BHS at the same time.

The idea behind Plant Your Roots was first thought of during a community

scheduling meetings with the necessary board members and local business owners in order to further advance the project. Matthews said, "Experiencing the year with you girls, I knew that this would be something that you would continue throughout your high school careers."

Alumni graduate and leave their high school years behind them while they move onto bigger and better things like college or a job. Even if one stays active with their high school after graduation, after many years it gets difficult to keep in contact with the school. For those who live out of the state, keeping in contact with their alma mater is nearly impossible. Being able to donate some money and have a flower planted in one's honor is a great and simple way to help beautify the high school.



Founding members and sophomores Lauren Boyd, Olivia Wood, Meagan Soffin, and Allison Archambault.

service project in Mrs. Caye Matthew's Ninth Grade Transitions class their freshman year. The idea was to plant flowers, plants and trees around BHS. "I thought it was a great idea. I hoped it would make an impact on the school [and] make the courtyard nicer," Matthews said. They were assigned to help out the community in any way they chose. While at first the organization was created for the sole purpose of completing the DECIDE project requirement, it quickly evolved into much more. The girls continued on with the project after the semester was over,

Plant Your Roots not only serves the purpose of reconnecting alumni, it also allows families who dedicate a plant to honor their current senior. There are many different plants one can choose from; they range from Perennial flowers to trees, and all of the plants that are planted are Michigan native.

If interested in having a plant planted this spring for a current senior or an alumni, please contact [plantyourroots@gmail.com](mailto:plantyourroots@gmail.com).

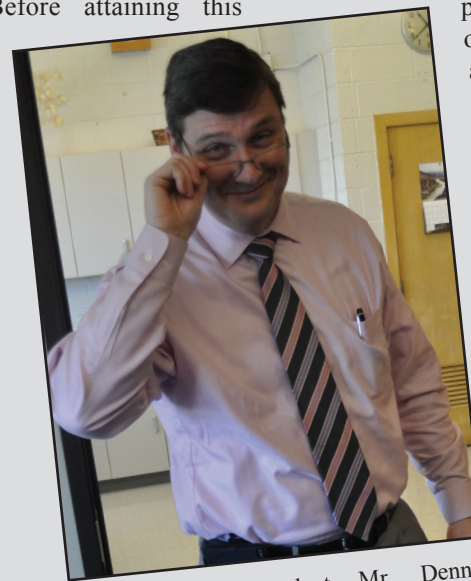
Photo by Barret Hotz

## Out with the old, in with the new McDavid takes over as superintendent

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

The 2012-2013 school year will mark the beginning of Mr. Dennis McDavid's career as the new superintendent of the Berkley School District. For the past five years, the district has been headed by Mr. Michael Simeck, who is now moving to the Chicago area for a new position. The Berkley school district has immensely improved academically through the past years, and with McDavid's leadership, the district will continue to excel.

McDavid's plans, as the new superintendent, are to help put students and staff members of the district in a position to succeed, as well as to give students more opportunities to achieve. He knows what "the expectations of quality" are throughout the district and hopes to continue improving those expectations. Before attaining this



Incoming superintendent Mr. Dennis McDavid

position, McDavid was the Director of School and Human Resources, and prior to that, he was an interim principal at BHS for the fall of 2008 and before that an English teacher at BHS for about 3 years.

He said that the biggest difference between working in the board office and working at the school is the interaction with staff and students. He misses working and helping students like he once did when he worked as a teacher and principal. When asked if it will be hard to fill Simeck's role he said, "Sure [it will], he left a legacy of continuous improvement." School board members said

McDavid will be great as BSD's new superintendent because he is a good man and a leader.

As McDavid gets ready to take on his new role as Superintendent McDavid, he plans to have a series of meetings with the community to prepare. He is excited to start his position and is up for the challenge of taking on something new. McDavid is "proud to be involved in this great place." As Simeck departs, many will miss his sense of humor and strong vision, yet they are excited for change and continued growth for the Berkley School District.



Outgoing superintendent Mr. Michael Simeck

Photo courtesy of berkleyschools.org

# FACEBOOK PASSWORDS: TO SHARE OR NOT TO SHARE?

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor

Recently, it is becoming more and more common for employers to ask prospective employees for their Facebook passwords. As of February 2012, Facebook has more than 845 million users. Everyone who has a Facebook account is always warned about the dangers of the famous social networking site. From accepting friend requests from strangers, to employers finding out about last weekend's party, anyone can "stalk" another person's profile. What many people are beginning to find out is that potential employers ask for their Facebook password to retrieve background information about them. It is now common for employers to friend request a possible employee, so it is a good idea to start protecting what certain Facebook "friends" are able to see.

When given passwords, employers can see anything and everything, including one's personal messages with people which were never intended to be seen by others, as well as wall posts and pictures that may be found to be inappropriate to the prospective employer. Some people choose to put their race, religion, age, and their personal interests, and that can potentially hurt them in a job interview. They now are capable of being somewhat all knowing. While in a normal interview, employers would not have been able to ask questions pertaining to one's personal life prior to having the information.

When one signs up for Facebook, they are agreeing to keep their password a secret



Photo by Barret Hoiz

when they commit to the Facebook terms and privacy policy. Giving out passwords to a possible employer is going against that pledge. Many people are giving potential employers their passwords because they feel if they do not, then they may be at risk of not getting the job. *The New York Times* said, Facebook is warning employers not to ask possible employees for their passwords to their accounts because it is against Facebook policy to share passwords. Facebook has also threatened to take legal action against anyone who violates their policy against sharing passwords.

People are choosing to not give employers their passwords even if they may be giving up the job because they may feel it is an invasion of their privacy. "No, I wouldn't give [employers] my password. It's an invasion of privacy. It's none of their business," sophomore Rachel Rottner said.

Back when Facebook was created, it was originally meant for college students to be able to stay connected with friends and to make new ones. Employers are now taking advantage of the social networking site to get unnecessary information about possible employees agreed on. The employers are manipulating the prospective employees into going against the rules of Facebook. Facebook made the rule of keeping one's password a secret for a reason. If asked during an interview for one's Facebook password, politely decline to share and continue with the interview.

# VOLUNTEERING FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FOUND IMPORTANT

Jake Rothman '14, Business/Ad Manager

As the college admissions process get more competitive, higher value is placed on volunteering experience. It is commonly known that students applying to college should get good grades, take hard classes, be involved in extracurricular activities and volunteer frequently. But what is the

true importance of volunteering on BHS students' college applications?

Students constantly hear that colleges are looking for well-rounded leaders who are actively involved in their community. However, achieving the elusive balance of school, extra curricular activities, and volunteering is quite challenging. At BHS and in the surrounding community there are many opportunities to volunteer, yet the weight these fantastic opportunities hold for college admissions counselors is still in question.

Students at BHS believe their volunteering is quite important to admissions counselors. This is because their efforts show responsibility and leadership that can only come from the unique work in their community. Junior and co-founder of the BHS Volunteer and Service club Emily Cohn said volunteering "shows you're involved and will carry your skills through to college."

The dedication and drive to help their community are also reasons why volunteering holds a great amount of weight when applying to college. Sophomore Ian Miller, who volunteers at an animal rescue shelter, agrees with the notion that admission counselors believe that community involvement in high school will translate into

community involvement in college. Counselor Natalie Perkins agrees and said, "Consistent volunteering shows [students] will continue to help in college."

In the competitive process of applying to college, a stellar GPA is not always enough to get into a student's desired college. Although performance in school still holds most of the weight when applying to college, the character of a student is the key to getting accepted. Perkins acknowledged that the main focus of students should remain on schoolwork. However, Perkins went on to say that "Volunteering shows they're caring and that they care about the community and their cause."

Volunteering, while important, still must be sincere and not solely for the purpose of logging hours. But after the work is completed, the results can not only benefit the community, but it can also improve a student's chances of getting into their preferred college. See <http://berkeleyvolunteerclub.com/> for more details.



Club members plant trees in Detroit to help beautify the city.



Photos courtesy of berkleyvolunteerclub.com

Students work hard to help make Detroit a better place.

6 THE SPECTATOR

# Wutcha Say?

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor

Asking teachers questions with lyrics from popular songs is quite the amusing experience. I asked a handful of teachers these odd questions and to my delight, most had no idea what I was talking about. Out of all of the teachers who were interviewed, six were selected due to their willingness to be lightly laughed at by the entire BHS population.

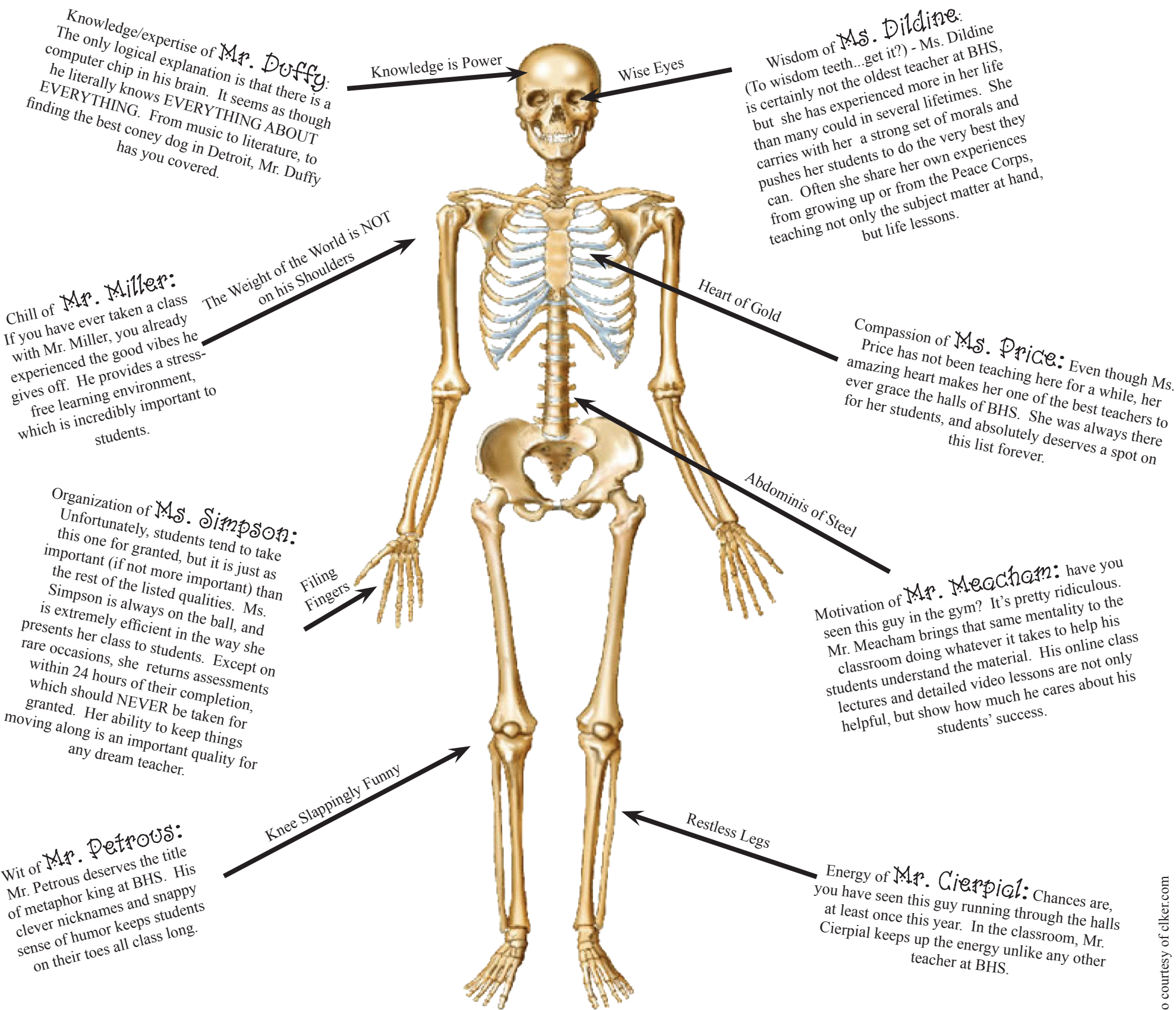
People of BHS, I give you: Wutcha say?!

	<b>Mr. Duffy</b>	<b>Mr. Petrous</b>	<b>Mrs. Isabell</b>	<b>Mrs. Ferrara</b>	<b>Mrs. Burroughs</b>	<b>Mr. Meacham</b>
<b>Question</b>						
<b>I hear you were a wild one. Are you?</b>	Yes.	Negative.	Don't believe everything you hear.	Wild about Literature!	No, I'm a total nerd.	Depends on the situation.
<b>Tonight, will you set the world on fire?</b>	Probably.	Oh yeah! Let's light this candle stick!	Yes I will.	Yes on fire... for a love of literature!	Nah, I'll be at the gym.	Umm...no, I don't use matches.
<b>Hey, I just met you and this is crazy, so here's my number, will you call me maybe?</b>	Isn't that a song from the Chevy commercial?	Oh baby!	No.	Awkward... no.	Probably not.	No, I don't talk to strangers.
<b>Do you nod your head like, "yeah"? Do you move your hips like, "yeah"?</b>	I do all of those in guilt.	*Does not answer, but does the dance*	I am not Miley Cyrus!	I don't talk about my hips.	Head yes, hips...not so much.	I can't dance.
<b>Will your universe ever be the same? Are you glad you came?</b>	I wish I stayed home and read a good book.	These questions are wild, not tame.	I don't think I'm from another planet.	Not since I read <i>The Great Gatsby</i> . BAZINGA!	Yeah! Sure.	Who came up with these questions?!
<b>Did you know that you're beautiful?</b>	Not as beautiful as that James Blunt song.	Oh yeah!	I feel like I'm on a music show...	Yes. I have a beautiful brain, because I read literature. BAM!	Awfully kind of you to say so.	Only when my wife tells me.
<b>Can you feel it, can you feel it, can you feel it?</b>	*Doesn't answer, but shakes with laughter.*	Oh, I can feel it.	WHAT?	Can I feel the unrhymed iambic penameter? Yes. Yes I can.	I think so...	Uh...what?
<b>Do your starships touch the sky?</b>	I saw Starship the band once.	Oh! At warp speed.	Oh gosh! No response!	What does that mean? (Makes a face)	I think I lost them...	Beyond the sky and into space.

# Dream Teacher: What makes the perfect teacher?

Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

As every student knows, a lot goes into making the perfect teacher, and often times, there are disagreements about who's the best. Every teacher at BHS has something unique to offer their students, but most can agree that these listed here have certain qualities that should not be overlooked. Here is *The Spectator's* take on "The Dream Teacher."



Knowledge is Power

Wise Eyes

Wisdom of **Ms. Dildine:** (To wisdom teeth...get it?) - Ms. Dildine is certainly not the oldest teacher at BHS, but she has experienced more in her life than many could in several lifetimes. She carries with her a strong set of morals and pushes her students to do the very best they can. Often she share her own experiences from growing up or from the Peace Corps, teaching not only the subject matter at hand, but life lessons.

Heart of Gold

Compassion of **Ms. Price:** Even though Ms. Price has not been teaching here for a while, her amazing heart makes her one of the best teachers to ever grace the halls of BHS. She was always there for her students, and absolutely deserves a spot on this list forever.

Abdominis of Steel

Motivation of **Mr. Meacham:** have you seen this guy in the gym? It's pretty ridiculous. Mr. Meacham brings that same mentality to the classroom doing whatever it takes to help his students understand the material. His online class lectures and detailed video lessons are not only helpful, but show how much he cares about his students' success.

Restless Legs

Energy of **Mr. Cierpial:** Chances are, you have seen this guy running through the halls at least once this year. In the classroom, Mr. Cierpial keeps up the energy unlike any other teacher at BHS.

Knee Slappingly Funny

Wit of **Mr. Petrous:** Mr. Petrous deserves the title of metaphor king at BHS. His clever nicknames and snappy sense of humor keeps students on their toes all class long.

Filing Fingers

Organization of **Ms. Simpson:** Unfortunately, students tend to take this one for granted, but it is just as important (if not more important) than the rest of the listed qualities. Ms. Simpson is always on the ball, and is extremely efficient in the way she presents her class to students. Except on rare occasions, she returns assessments within 24 hours of their completion, which should NEVER be taken for granted. Her ability to keep things moving along is an important quality for any dream teacher.

The Weight of the World is NOT on his Shoulders

Chill of **Mr. Miller:** If you have ever taken a class with Mr. Miller, you already experienced the good vibes he gives off. He provides a stress-free learning environment, which is incredibly important to students.

Knowledge/expertise of **Mr. Duffy:** The only logical explanation is that there is a computer chip in his brain. It seems as though he literally knows EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING. From music to literature, to finding the best coney dog in Detroit, Mr. Duffy has you covered.

# 8 THE SPECTATOR

## BIRTHDAYS BRING CHANGE, ALLOW FOR GROWTH

Lenie Siegel '14, Freelance Writer

The minute a baby is born he or she is expected to develop into a healthy and mature adult. Along this course of growth, children experience their childhood and the teenage years until adulthood begins. The transitions into each stage of life are considered major milestones. With this in mind, many anticipate an extravagant celebration for certain birthdays. For those who practice Judaism, one celebrates his or her Bar or Bat Mitzvah when one turns 13. As one advances into the teenage years, his or her sweet 16 and 18th birthdays are considered major life events. People build up these occasions to be some sort of momentous event, so what truly makes these birthdays such milestones?

For those of the Jewish faith, the most notable birthday celebration happens when kids become a B'nai Mitzvah. When some think of these specific events, they think about the huge blowout party following the service. Many may ask, what is so significant about having a party for your 13th birthday? The importance of this event is the entry into the adulthood of the Jewish world. Though the child is technically becoming a Jewish adult, it is hard to imagine a 13-year-old to be considered a true man or woman. "I don't feel like I'm an adult day to day after having my Bat Mitzvah, but I'm a woman in the Jewish world," freshman Rachel Czapp explained. As a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, one is responsible for observing most of the Jewish rituals and traditions like fasting on Yom Kippur and keeping Passover. To celebrate Czapp's milestone, she had a dance party with all of her friends in Birmingham.

As a 13-year-old, becoming an adult does not seem as much of a reality as it does when one turns 16 years old. The celebration of this milestone, 16, is something different for each person. A common trend seen among high school students is the excitement of being able to drive. For singer Hilary Duff, one's sweet sixteen is about freedom. "Finally free to be who I wanna be. Who that is I don't really care," sings Duff in "Sweetsixteen." Teenagers often feel trapped in

a world where they are overruled by those who are older than them. As 15-year-olds approach their 16th birthday, some feel that they can escape from this imprisoned feeling with a new sense of freedom—whether it be on the road or just sitting in a classroom.

To some, it is about freedom and driving, for others it is about getting their first job; one's sweet sixteen is a milestone that one can make what he or she wants of it. "Sixteenth birthdays are major milestones. In turning 16, I will feel more independent by having a license. I will be able to go places without having to ask for a ride," sophomore Kristin Dona said. Though it's different for everyone, this is about a series of firsts and beginnings as a person begins adulthood. "So much more to life, sweet sixteen," Duff continues in her song.

As this life course carries on, one's 18th birthday becomes the last milestone of his or her teenage years. Adulthood officially becomes a reality, as one is able to vote, be drafted, and college or their first career awaits. Senior Jacob Duchan said that he "signed up for a driver's test, registered to vote, and had a nice dinner with his family for [his] 18th birthday."

While one is considered a legal adult at 18, many may say that most 18-year-olds do not act as one. "[18-year-olds] think that they have this automatic privilege to do certain things but it has not yet been earned," Duchan said. To be accepted as a true adult, one must attain a certain level of maturity. Without achieving this sense of acting as an adult, one's 18th birthday may not be considered a significant milestone. After all, becoming an adult in this landmark event requires the behavior of an adult.

As a child, the celebrations of these milestones are about eating cake and ice cream, receiving presents, and having the biggest birthday party. When one ages, however, it becomes clearer that the rite of passage into adulthood is what should be most celebrated.



Photo by Sam Lubinecky

## UNDERGROUND TRUTH

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor, Jake Rothman '13, Business/Ad Manager and Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

There are many misconceptions about the activity inside the walls of BHS. Some of the most popular myths at BHS were used to create this article and students should be aware of the actual truths in our beloved school.

### Myth: Asbestos in the school

The date in which this school was built leads to the conclusion that there may have had asbestos in the school. Asbestos, which is used for insulation, is known to be very dangerous to people's health and can cause conditions as serious as lung cancer. When asked whether or not there is Asbestos in the school, Mr. Kane answered "No."

### Myth: Underground tunnels

In order to investigate these myths, we had to go see them for ourselves and contrary to popular belief, there were no skeletons down there, nor any evidence of old KKK meetings, or a tunnel to Anderson. However, we did find a box that said, "Human Blood. Handle With Care." Unfortunately, there were only old newspapers in there, no blood. As we met our sherpa Mr. Gawel for our escapades into the world below, he shared stories of myths he had heard about the tunnels. After intense research, we found out a lot about the tunnels that run under the school. Opposing popular belief, the tunnels are not for people, but instead they are used for heating and cooling the school along with pipe repair. This being said, there is some evidence to support the myth that human life may or may not exist and thrive under the floorboards with the physical evidence of cans of food and couches.

The tunnels run down underneath the English hallway through the courtyard under the pool, and in many places having clearance of less than four feet. There are no tunnels that give access to Anderson Middle School or any location outside of BHS grounds. There is also no physical evidence supporting the myth that the KKK or any other supremacist group has ever conducted meetings under BHS grounds.

### Myth: Otis cookies are not addictive

Otis cookies are delectable, this is true. However, the fact that Otis cookies have an addictive substance embedded in them is also true. It is just simply not possible for a small cookie to attract and addict so many people.

Many BHS students have fallen victim to the cookies. For these troubled students, there currently is no end in sight. Each and every one of these unfortunate students deserves to know what addictive substance is in their cookies.

The administrators are included in the multiple victims at BHS. When Vice Principal Michael Ross was asked about his addiction to the cookie he quickly responded "No" and shifted the blame to his sweet tooth. Many of the administrators, including our leader Mr. Gawel, can be seen with bags of Otis each day. If the cookies can conquer our most valiant leaders with their addictive powers, then none of us students are safe.

Proof that these cookies are in fact addicting stems from the sign for Otis Cookies in the T. The sign says "A day without Otis is unbearable." Some students, in denial of their addiction, might say the sign is a pun on the Berkley Bears. However, the true meaning of the sign exposes the fact that a day without the cookies could be life threatening.



All photos by Barret Holtz and courtesy of google images



# The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol. 1: The Frenchman Cometh

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor and James Demery '13, Opinion Editor



J.M. Demery eyes his target and strikes with elegant form.



While Bebeau takes his shot, J.M. Demery and M.E. Hart discuss classic literature, Robert Frost poems and etiquette surrounding the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.



The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen is an über exclusive guild comprised of the most gentlemanly members of classy BHS society. Founders and writers of this article James Michael Demery and Mitchell Edward Hart set out to gather the most gentlemanly men at BHS, and then, if deemed fit, we invite them to join the guild. Initiation consists of participating in one black-tie gentlemanly task or experience with the founding members.

While we cannot tell you any specifics about the League, or secret society, let us just say that most of our weekly outings slightly resemble the plot of *The Hangover* and *The Hunger Games*. And that's just Friday night.

As we pursue membership, we could not pass up the opportunity to invite French gentleman David Bebeau to join. We picked the sophisticated game of croquet to be played on our official croquet lawn, located directly outside of the southern windows of gentleman Bebeau's classroom.

Soon after we began setting up the croquet lawn, Bebeau began schooling us on the finer points of the elegant sport. When asked if croquet was a French sport, he scoffed and said that the French would never make such a ridiculous thing, and it was invented by those foolish Brits.

When we finally got down to business, we realized Sir Bebeau was a prodigy at croquet. His game has been compared to 2011 world croquet champion Mark McLnerney, and he lived up to the hype, teaching us many lessons on the lawn.

We bid you all adieu for the month, my fellow gentlemen. We will return, and when we do, we look forward to introducing you to the inner workings of the one, the only, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.



M.E. Hart takes his shot very seriously while his fellow croquet players watch attentively.



The members of The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen strike a pose with elegance and grace.

Photos by Barret Hotz



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# JOIN US FOR A NIGHT ON THE RIVER: BHS PROM 2012

## The Venue

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

This year prom will take place at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Before our miniature odyssey over yonder to the Detroit River, writing about a venue at first appeared as a limited topic. However, once we arrived and were greeted by our guide Sir Neuman, who also happened to be a professional water skier a few years prior, Veronica Marchese, Alison Jones, and I were educated about the interesting history surrounding the club. Neuman told us the stories, some true, some fallacies, that he tells the children when giving them tours- some of which I fell for- from the fire places you can be thrown in if you misbehave, to the pictures of navy seals past whose eyes tend to follow as you pass by. If you are not going to be fooled by the idea of a 'haunted' yacht club, maybe actual facts about the DYC will convince you to engage in the exciting-ness that is prom. All of Belle Isle, zoo and all, was built around the DYC. But ya know, do not take our word for it, check it out for yourself. While the idea of prom may seem superficial to some, the bountiful history lining the venue can almost guarantee a genuine and worthwhile experience.



Juniors Eric Israel asked friend Rachel Krasnick by gathering friends and writing letters of "prom?" On their chests, complete with flowers and a cupcake.



Junior Matthew Koerner asked girlfriend and sophomore Shelby Allen by putting the letters of "prom" on separate hurdles that Allen was to jump over in her track practice.



A student from Brother Rice asked junior Maddie Whitton to take him to prom.

## The 3 steps to making your prom memorable

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

Prom is said to be one of the most special and important nights of one's high school career. To some, this event could be very exciting and exhilarating, but for others it could mean tons of stress. There is a lot of pressure on teens, especially guys, around prom time to get everything exactly right. There is asking that special girl, finding enough money for tickets, and making sure that everything is totally perfect for that one exceptional night. Here are a few tips to make sure that the 2012 BHS prom goes smoothly:-

**1. Ask someone who you will have fun with-** When asking a person to prom, it is essential that you ask someone that you know you will have fun with. Do not just ask a person because you think they will fit in best with your friends' dates, but go with someone you want to go with. Most people have the opportunity to go to prom twice or maybe even three times, so make the best of it.

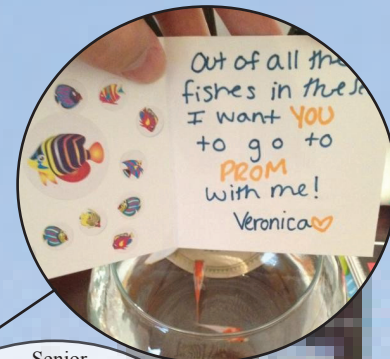
**2. Money-** We all know that money is tight and prom night costs. From paying for tickets to a dress or tux, prom is one of the most expensive nights of a teen's life. If you are a freshman or sophomore, I would suggest starting to save now. That may seem like a far-fetched thought, but you will thank me in the long run. If you are a junior or senior, prom is here. If there is no way for you to come up with the money, that's okay too. Plan to do something less expensive but just as fun that night.

**3. Dresses/Tuxedos-** What one wears to prom is one of the most important aspects of the whole night. Picking out an outfit for prom may be more important for the girl, but it is still crucial either way. Girls, make sure you pick out a dress that compliments your body type and a dress that you feel confident in. Boys, make sure you find a suit that fits your body well too. The pictures you take will be around for a while.

## The art of asking

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

Asking someone to prom should be done creatively, and captivating, and if you have yet to ask someone, here are some ideas that range from the simple to complex. A student at International Academy, who has a pilot's license, flew his girlfriend over a parking lot that had "Prom?" written in chalk. Although it is hard to upstage flying your special someone in a plane, there are some other ideas that could be more manageable. Make a fake parking ticket and put it in the announcements or in the school paper. Make a poster and put it in front of their house, at school or anywhere else your special someone may see it. Write on their car with car paint (be sure to only use it on the windows otherwise it can ruin the paint). Whatever way you decide to ask someone, be sure to pick someone you know you can have a good time with, as you will be stuck with them for about four hours. (Disclaimer - These will not necessarily secure you a date).



Senior Veronica Metalic asked boyfriend Michael Sleeman by getting a bowl of fish and putting a sign on the bowl saying "out of all the fish in the sea, I want you to go to prom with me."

## The guide to getting ready

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

**Day of:** For juniors in AP World and taking the AP exam, they will be busy taking the test on the day of prom. After their stressful day of test taking, students have two options, go back to school or take the day off to relax and get ready for the dance. I am not advocating skipping your classes, but taking the day off to get ready could be beneficial.

**Hours before:** For guys, getting ready is basically a piece of cake. Take a shower, comb your hair, put on your tux, and make sure you are looking good. For the girls, it is a much more of a process. Most girls go get their hair, nails and make-up all done or have a friend help. Make sure to give yourself enough time to get ready so you are not struggling before you arrive at "Prom Park" to take pictures.

## The after party

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

The hours and ridiculous amounts of money spent on prom (which I am in no way belittling, because I will very much be participating) are however just that: ridiculous and time consuming. The actual act of prom lasts for no more than a few hours which can either 1.) Make you stress out even more, or 2.) Make you think that none of it is worth it and opt not to go. Now, this could go either way, but before you end up spending your whole life savings on a dress and waxing off your eye brows, take a moment to breathe, and day dream about what happens after. After the awkwardness of figuring out if you are going to take pictures with your friends or your date's friends, after you make the ever so unimportant decision of party bus versus limo, after you have found the perfect pair of six-inch heels (which will no doubt paralyze your toes for the remainder of the night) etcetera, start to think of the prom-after-party where you and all your friends will happily reside in one place, indulging in stress-free, care-free happiness, partying on a school night.

**To Clarissa Donnelly '13,  
Co-Entertainment Editor: Prom?  
-Zak Witus '12, Co-Editor-in-Chief**



# The wandering scrolls:

## Adventures of a hallway wanderer

Danny Bakst '12, Co-Editor-in-chief

The halls of high school can be a confusing and frightening place. With hall monitors lurking and strange smells around every corner, this mysterious frontier seems to be unconquerable. There have been many acclaimed wanderers before our time, and there will certainly be more in the future. Wanderers from all generations follow the old adage, "Only with time and experience can a true wanderer earn the title of master explorer of the halls of BHS." The ability to travel from the science hallway down to the west gym, or even venture from the media center to the language hallway may seem impossible to underclassmen, but after four years I have learned many secrets that I wish to bestow upon the student body. No longer do students have to sit in class staring at the beautiful pastures of Sunnyknoll, because with my teachings students can explore all areas of school without avoiding all consequences.

Even though wandering through the halls is an ancient tradition carried on through generations of high schoolers, our way is being threatened. Although some harmless wandering may seem insignificant to most of the student body, the staff has always tried to destroy the art of hallway adventure. Most recently, the administration has tried to cut back on student excursions from class by putting the vending machines on lockdown during class time. We cannot let the man deter us from our much-deserved snackitude. What harm is a student causing by wolfing down a pop-tart or some hot Cheetos during a PowerPoint? Why can't we take a break from class with a break off of a kit-kat? In the America I was raised in, people were allowed to eat when they were hungry and drink when they were thirsty. All we want is the freedom to spend our Washingtons on whatever pleases us.

Some people may say, "What does Daniel Bakst know about wandering the halls? Why should we listen to him?" My wandering experience in the land of BHS cannot be taken lightly. I have successfully

traveled through every hallway of this school, without a pass, and simply carried with me a stack of flyers and a stapler. I literally walked by every classroom in this school without even being approached by a hall monitor, and that's a fact. Although most current people at BHS did not witness this, I experienced the wonders of the hallway unlike any other student in BHS history. After a gruesome ankle injury that occurred in an intense lunge for a loose ball during my sophomore Berkley Hoops season, I was issued a medical scooter. Instead of hobbling around the halls on crutches I transformed into a half-man, half machine wanderer. Because this scooter gave me the ability to move at speeds faster than the average student I was able to wander at an unimaginable rate. I could go from the ceramics room all the way to the auditorium in a matter of seconds. This scooter also gave me the advantage of empathy. Who is going to stop the kid rolling down the halls with a bright blue cast formed around most of his leg? My broken ankle gave me the skills to become an advanced hallway wanderer. Seniors may have known me as scooter boy for a good portion of my sophomore year, but it was worth it to achieve the knowledge and wisdom I gained from this chapter of my high school life.

Exploring the halls is a dangerous game that can result in a multitude of consequences. Besides the missed class time, which is hardly a loss at all, an adventurer can run into Rick, Paula or even an administrator which could result in a detention. Although the risk exists, the experience of hallway exploration is well worth it. Class time spent in the hall is not solely a time for slackers. When else can you experience a one-on-one talk with Paula about the Tigers game, or catch a thief from stealing out of people's lockers. Don't spend all of the day wasting away at a desk BHS students, branch out into the hallways and experience BHS to the fullest.



Photo by Danny Bakst

Danny Bakst has formed a close relationship with all the hall monitors. Bakst, Paula and Rick are planning to form a band named "The Hall Herders" and tour Europe.



Photo by Barret Hotz

Senior Peter Hoch uses some of Bakst's teachings to avoid hallway punishment.

# ARSENIC KILLS ON STAGE

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

**A**rsenic and Old Lace is the hilarious tale of two elderly women who poison lonely men with their homemade Elderberry wine. Their usual victims are men without families, so no one will notice if they are killed. The BHS Drama Department put on this play with few flaws on April 12-14. The play was led well by senior Adam Derington as Mortimer Brewster, and seniors Emily Ebaugh and Rachel Sabbath as Abby and Martha Brewster. The drama department worked very hard to create a high quality performance, and the leads held their own.

Though junior Tim Dalian was not necessarily considered the main lead, he certainly stole the show. Dalian played Teddy 'Roosevelt' Brewster, brother to Mortimer who whole-heartedly believes he is President Teddy Roosevelt. Another standout from the show was senior Robbie Nebergall, who played Jonathon Brewster, the long lost brother of Teddy and Mortimer Brewster, who comes back into the picture with a completely new face; his third new face to be exact. When asked how he felt about the play as a whole, Nebergall said, "It was amazing, there is nothing better than making people laugh."

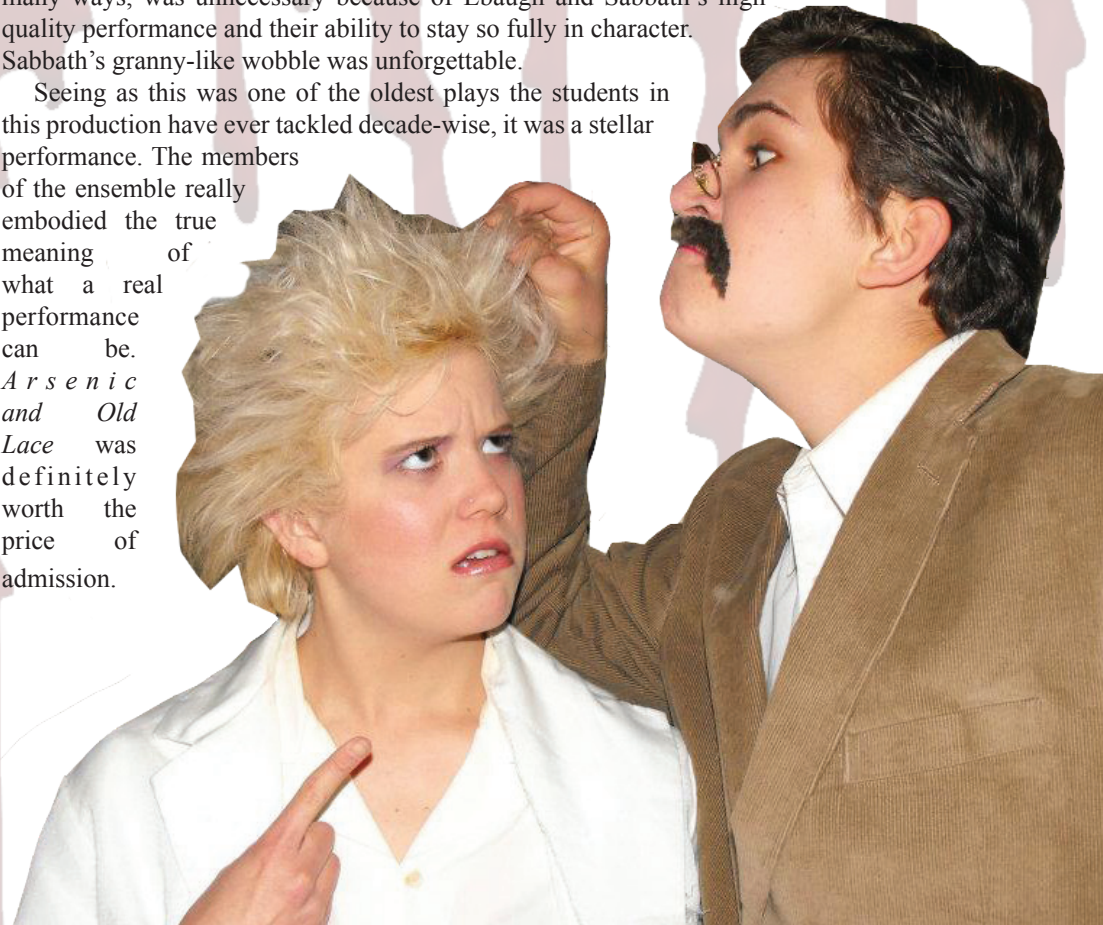
The show, although pushing three hours on opening night, had many strong assets that helped the audience stay intrigued. The set of the show was phenomenal, as well as the casting of the show. "The roles that everyone had fit them well, and everyone worked well as an ensemble" senior Nitasha Kernan-Fox said. "Everyone did their best," director/set director Mr. Kevin Savel said.

Though the set and cast were very well put together, there were some other details that lacked the flawlessness of the others. For one, there were some minor unavoidable stumbles the cast encountered; whether it was breaking curtain rods or candles that would not stay lit, the cast's ability to improvise was on point.

Another portion that was lacking the allure of the rest of the play was the make-up of the cast. Although some, if not most, of the characters in the play were meant to be older, the dramatized make-up of the

aunties and other cast members was somewhat of a distraction. It, in many ways, was unnecessary because of Ebaugh and Sabbath's high quality performance and their ability to stay so fully in character. Sabbath's granny-like wobble was unforgettable.

Seeing as this was one of the oldest plays the students in this production have ever tackled decade-wise, it was a stellar performance. The members of the ensemble really embodied the true meaning of what a real performance can be. *Arsenic and Old Lace* was definitely worth the price of admission.



Junior Tim Dalian and senior Marie Perreault go all out on stage.

Photo courtesy of Taylor Tucker

## MOVIE SEASON REELS IN VIEWERS

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor

Movie season is back and now there is finally something to entertain teenagers across America over the weekends. No need to waste time in the glorious spring weather while soaking up some vitamin D. All problems that are encountered can now be solved with a bucket of popcorn and an oversized slushie at arms reach while anticipating the theatre light to dim and the jumbo screen to light up and start all of the exciting movie previews for the upcoming weekends.

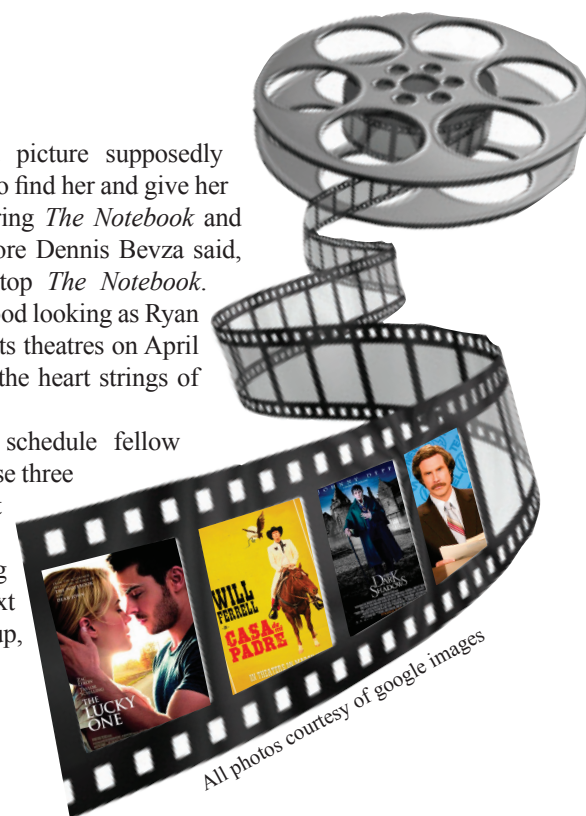
On March 16, the movie season kicked off with *Casa De Mi Padre* starring Will Ferrell. The new comedy was filmed in a unique way. Ferrell stepped out of his "comedy comfort zone" and made a film that was all in Spanish with subtitles. Along with his new comedy, Ferrell announced that the sequel to *Anchorman* is coming to theatres after eight years. Junior Veldo Funwie shares his excitement for the upcoming movie. "*Anchorman Two* sounds good," he said. "I'm ready for that."

Tim Burton called on his best friend Johnny Depp (for the tenth time) to play the lead of his new production. Burton's new comedy *Dark Shadows* that takes after the hit 1960s children's show is set to air on May 11. It tells the story of a jealous witch who puts a curse on a handsome young man, Barnabus Collins (Depp), and turns him into a vampire in the mid 1800s. He is buried alive, but being immortal, he eventually climbs out and finds himself in the 1970s where he encounters his 'future' family. Sophomore Valerie Christy and Funwie share what they would do if an old family vampire showed up after a century. Christy said, "It depends. Does he look like Edward?" Funwie said, "I would tell him to bite me."

*The Lucky One*, starring Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling is another Nicholas Sparks love story that is bound to be a tear jerker for all who watch (although the story seems somewhat farfetched). A soldier in Iraq (Efron) finds a picture of a pretty

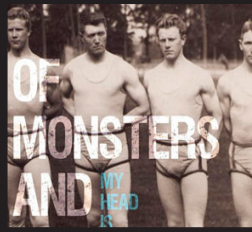
girl (Schilling) and that picture supposedly saves his life and sets off to find her and give her his thanks. When comparing *The Notebook* and *The Lucky One*, sophomore Dennis Bevza said, "*The Lucky One* won't top *The Notebook*. Never ever. No one's as good looking as Ryan Gosling." The romance hits theatres on April 20, and is sure to tug on the heart strings of tweens across America.

Make room in your schedule fellow BHS citizens, because these three films, along with a boat load of others, will be all that you will be spending your money on for the next couple of months. Save up, kick back, and enjoy.

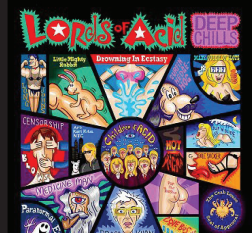


All photos courtesy of google images

## 14 THE SPECTATOR

**OF MONSTERS AND MEN - MY HEAD IS AN ANIMAL:**

This band, whose members all hail from Reykjavík, Iceland, are releasing their first album. They are a folk/indie band, and this album will be their big shot to become a well known band in the indie/pop world. Although they are from Iceland, the group's music is entirely in English. "My Head Is An Animal" hit the stores on April 4 and when you get it be sure to take a listen to their single "Little Talks."

**LORDS OF ACID - DEEP CHILLS:**

Lords Of Acid is a Belgian-American post-industrial/techno band. They have been around since 1988 when they released their first single "I Sit on Acid." Since 1988, the band has had their fair share of members come and go, but the two main members, Praga Khan and DJ Mea, remain. Lords of Acid's latest album came out on April 10. Go and pick it up and listen to the hit track "Paranormal Energy."

**EVE 6 - SPEAK IN CODE:**

Once a 1990s hit maker, the band is now releasing a new album titled "Speak in Code." The band originated from southern California and is one of the biggest bands to come out of the 90s that continues to have their songs remain popular today. Their new album features the same meaningful lyrics their old music had. Eve 6 will be releasing the album eight years after their initial break up and have now gotten back together and signed with Fearless Records. Eve 6 only has three band members, so they are definitely different than any other band out in the music world. Eve 6 is releasing their new album on April 24. Go pick the album up to listen to their newest single "Lost & Found."

## ALBUMS OF APRIL

Barret Hotz '13, Photo Editor

## THE FANDOM 'FAN'OMENA

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

Recently, it has become quite apparent that fandoms, meaning the obsessive community that surrounds a TV show, book series, or movie, are on the rise. Those involved in fandoms are often seen as one big manifestation of their love for that particular medium. They show their love by wearing t-shirts with their obsession printed on the front and even occasionally dressing as a particular character. They purchase notebooks, folders, pencils, and various other learning utensils plastered with logos, because of course, the fandom must be brought to the classroom. There is even jewelry available, like a replica of Hermione Granger's time-turner necklace. Reflecting on this, fandoms may seem like the victims of yet another corporate scheme to make money, however, the undying love found in fandom communities is nothing short of impressive.

The most prominent example of a book series fandom is the

*Harry Potter* following. The first *Harry Potter* novel, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was released in 1997, which ignited the vivacious following. Readers were entranced by the magical fantasy world that was created by J.K. Rowling and could not help, but wish they were a part of it. The fact that the books are a series even further captivated readers, leaving them hungry for more after each book was read. The first book was made into a movie in 2001, which grossly widened the *Harry Potter* fandom. The release of the films then sparked the creation of *Harry Potter* related t-shirts and other trinkets, further fueling the growing obsession. Fans of the *Harry Potter* series are some of the most dedicated fans and their passion is enough to impress anybody.

Similarly, more book fandoms include the *Twilight* Saga and *The Hunger Games* trilogy. The *Twilight* fandom that developed was a short lived but enthusiastic

following and it resulted in outrageous paraphernalia such as *Twilight*-inspired make up, perfume, bed spreads, and even life-sized cut-outs of Edward Cullen and Jacob Black. However, this fandom seemed to strike primarily middle-schoolers and soon dwindled when they entered high school and were given a taste of fine literature. *The Hunger Games* is even more recent, with the movie just having been released March 23, and is following in the footsteps of other fandoms.

What is so interesting about these book series/movie fandoms is the unique occurrence they have taken in the teen community. The *Harry Potter* series, the *Twilight* Saga, and the *The Hunger Games* series all have adolescent protagonists, which is the main attraction for teens. While at a glance, the situations of these teens do not appear relatable to teens in reality, a closer look reveals that they experience all of the same

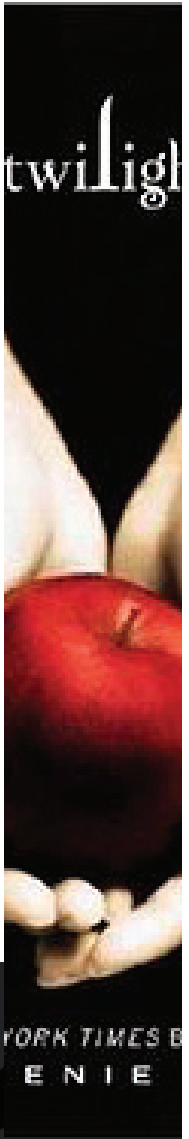
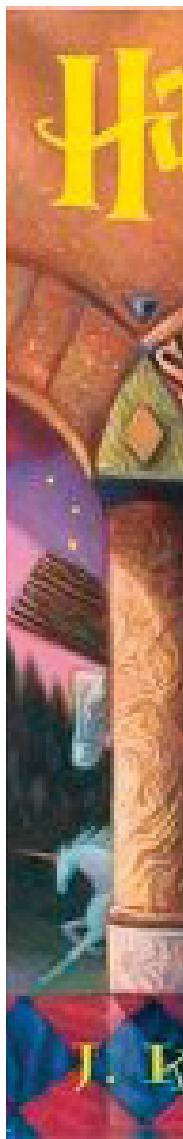
things real teens do, including love, family life, and outside pressures. Like everywhere, BHS has its own fandom community.

BHS senior Sarah Grassa is a dedicated fan of several book and movie series. "I've been to all the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* midnight premieres and I will go to all of the *The Hunger Games* midnight premieres." Grassa said. She, like many fans, is against people going to movie premieres who have not read the books. Fans interpret this as disrespect towards the book and phony admiration for the actual story.

English teacher Mrs. Tess Ferrara said that there was nothing like the fandoms today back when she was a teenager. "Harry Potter was the first of its kind [and] true fanfare didn't pick up until the third book. My senior year of high school was *Saved By the Bell* fan-based," Ferrara said laughingly.

While the fandoms surrounding book series and their

subsequent movies are relatively new, fandoms following musical groups and television shows have been around for quite some time. The measures fans will go to to express their love for various fandoms are thought of by many as, and sometimes understandably, ridiculous. But what is the fixation behind the religious-like devotion of fandoms? The subjects of fandoms not only provide followers with a story that they can relate to and fantasize about, but fandoms also create a community that welcomes anyone who has a love for the story. As Ferrara said, "[The attraction lies in] the basic human need to feel a part of something. Especially in high school when everything is changing for kids." To be a part of a community that shares one common obsession, but includes an extremely diverse array of people is a powerful thing, and for many, it can be somewhat of a safe haven.



## THE HUNGER GAMES

YORK TIMES  
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# HITS AND MISSES OF APRIL

## HIT: APRIL IN THE D

Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

Even though the Red Wings are no longer in the running for Lord Stanley's cup, and the Pistons will not compete in this year's playoffs, there is still a lot of sports to be excited for this April. The Tigers are entering the regular season hungry as ever, and with newly acquired slugger, Prince Fielder and veteran Miguel Cabrera at the heart of the batting order, many predict Detroit to win the series. Both the NHL and NBA playoffs will be in full swing through early June for those who enjoy the excitement of post-season competition. Let the games begin.

Mrs. Stacey Walters rocks her Tigers' gear.



Sophomore Ava Dorsch expresses her love for YOLO.

## HIT: YOLO

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

As Drake proclaimed in his hit song "The Motto," you only live once. Since the song released the term, "YOLO," the popular phrase has been constantly overused, not that I am complaining though. Whenever doing something out of one's comfort zone or that is so-called "wild," it is completely appropriate to use the acronym. The term implies you need to live life to its fullest. You should live big, try things that scare you and challenge yourself. It is true; you only have one lifetime to fulfill all your dreams, so keep doing everything you desire, after all, YOLO.



Seniors Hayden Alpert (left) and Nick Tenaglia (right) cheer on sophomore Eric Voisine while senior Karsyn Baker has no one cheering for her.



Sophomore Gabe Gedda-Shaheen reaches out for the things popping out at him while watching a 3-D movie.

## MISS: SEXISM IN SPORTS

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

When it comes to sports, most people here at BHS are mostly only concerned with the boys' teams, like basketball and football. Neither teams have had a necessarily stellar season, but people still went to their games because they are boys. Although it is not technically fair to compare guys' and girls' high school sports because they are two totally different calibers of playing, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that sports of opposite sexes should still have equal treatment. This means that scheduling of games and practice times, locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities, as well as equipment and supplies should all be equal under law. Even if girls' sports have the better records or more standout players, the boys still get more credit because they may possibly be more entertaining than said girls' sport. Whether or not you would rather go to a NBA game over a WNBA game, girls and boys should have the same opportunities for practice facilities and to have their games seen.

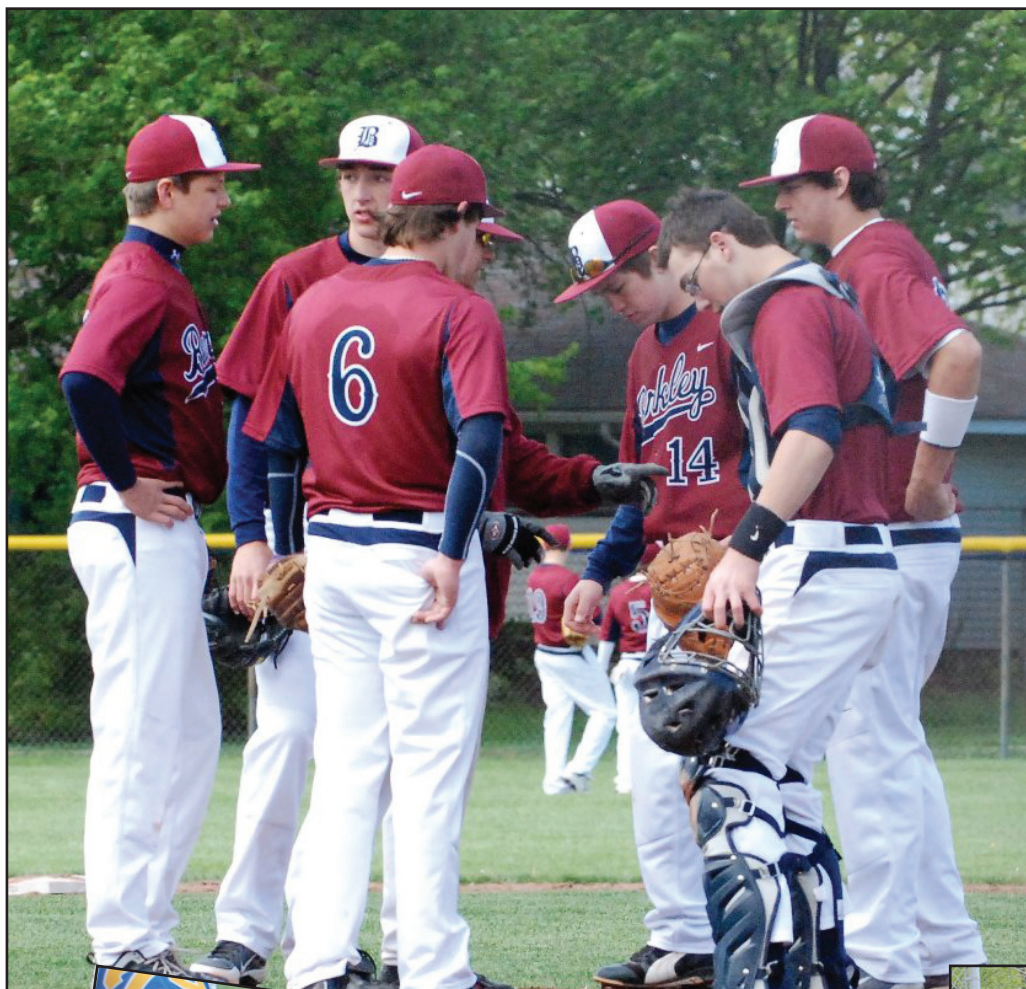
## MISS: MOVIES COMING BACK IN 3-D

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor

Growing up with movies like *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Titanic*, *Star Wars: Episode I*, and *Finding Nemo* as a little kid and then finding out that they are returning to theatres in 3-D makes me pretty peeved. These movies (besides *Star Wars*) have a very small amount of jam-packed action scenes, so transferring these movies into 3-D is pretty pointless. I thought that 3-D was supposed to make an action-adventure movie look like it is coming right at you, not watching talking fish swim. Most of us have all of these movies in our living room and if you do not, then you can watch it on the internet. There is really no need to waste \$10 on something you have at home.

# Baseball team swings for glory

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor



Opening day of Major League Baseball. There is the smell of hotdogs, the selling of peanuts, and the sound of fans excited to see America's favorite pastime played by players who have worked extremely hard for a hopeful season. This is what happens at opening day for Major League Baseball, and at Pop Lewis field, the BHS varsity baseball team was able to experience the same traditions at their first game on April 11.

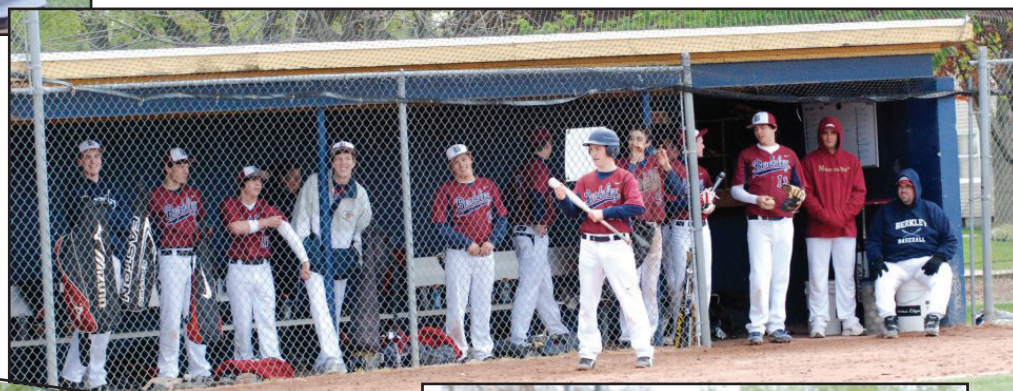
"We lost a lot of seniors from last year, but we never really had a strong leader and this year people have already stepped up with strong leadership," junior and center fielder Ian Kobernick said. "We all worked really hard in the off season so we should do better." With a record of 15-12 and a loss of nine important seniors last year, the BHS baseball team hopes to improve over the course of this spring season.

With a great start to their season with a record of 8-0 (as of April 23) and a team batting average of .358, the BHS baseball team is looking to continue their success in upcoming games. The team is hoping for a lot of support from their fans at the Cancer Benefit Game on May 11 at 7 p.m. where the team will be playing at home, complete with pink uniforms, to support the fight against cancer.

Top players this year fans should look for are juniors Kobernick and third baseman/pitcher Nick Bauer, and seniors third baseman Taylor Morrissey and pitcher/short stop Nick Tenaglia. Morrissey has high hopes for the team. He said everyone "has a great work ethic with a core group of leaders who are stepping up to make sure everyone does their part."

Head Coach Gruppen agrees with the players on their success when he said that the "team is doing well right now because of the work a lot of them put in the off season on their hitting and fielding." He said, "We are playing with a team first mentality. If we keep it that way it should be an exciting spring."

Not only are the players excited for the upcoming season, but so is dedicated fan, junior John Ciaramitaro who said he is "extremely excited for the baseball season" and to find out how the team will do further along. The team is sure to be promising this season and everyone should look forward to it.



The Varsity Baseball team competes against Redford Union on April 21.

# MTV: BRING BACK THE MUSIC VIDEOS

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

**M**TV stands for Music Television and in the early 1980s its programming represented its title. The original purpose of the channel was to play the most popular music videos guided by video jockeys or "VJ's." MTV's impact on the music industry and pop culture paved the way for many other music channels that are available today (i.e. VH1, MTV2, CMT).

MTV wanted people to be able to hear the most popular music and watch the most popular videos of the time, and they succeeded for a while. MTV is the most recognized network among young adults ages 12-34 and because of that they took these statistics and ran with them, producing programs more suitable for a younger audience so their programs could try to

be more relatable to those age categories.

After *Total Request Live* or *TRL* went off the air in November 2008, the number of music videos played on MTV took a dramatic nosedive. In the early 2000s, music videos were featured on MTV up to eight hours a day, but 2008 saw an average of just three hours of music videos per day. A decade or two prior, MTV started taking a lot of its focus off of music and placing it on reality shows, like *Real World* and *Road Rules*. 2003 marked the high rise of reality shows on MTV including *Two-a-Days*, *Laguna Beach* and *My Super Sweet 16*. By 2009, almost every shows airing on MTV was a reality based show. Shows like the ever-popular *Jersey Shore*, which follows the lives of seven self proclaimed "Guidos" spending their summers in Seaside Heights, New Jersey. MTV also aired a new show around the

same time called *16 and Pregnant*, which documented the lives of expecting pregnant teenagers. MTV even produced a spin-off show after the first season of *16 and Pregnant* dubbed *Teen Mom*.

MTV used to be a way to explore new musical genres and be exposed to new artists, not to expose the sex lives of young girls or the partying habits of *Jersey Shore* inhabitants. There is still the glaring fact that MTV stands for Music Television, yet less than ten percent of its programming is devoted to music. Just as Justin Timberlake's twitter account has dared MTV to play more music videos, so should those who miss the days of endless tunes and who definitely would not miss the loose morals and brief nudity. Without the help of MTV, we may have never gotten the same exposure to music that we have today. MTV, bring the music back.

## THE EVOLUTION OF MTV

### LADIES & GENTS



On August 1, 1981 MTV launched its first broadcast. The famous line, "Ladies and gentlemen, rock and roll," spoken by John Lack was announced and the footage of the first Space Shuttle launch countdown of Columbia and of the launch of Apollo 11 was shown.

Photo courtesy www.thespacereview.com

### T.R.L.



Oh TRL those were the good old days. After getting home from school you could sit down and enjoy great music and relax after a hard day. MTV claims no one wanted to host the show anymore and that is why it ended in 2008.

Photo courtesy www.gothamist.com

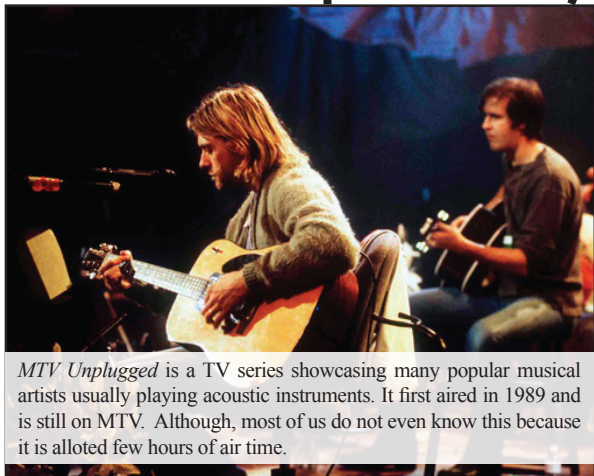
### 16 & PREGNANT



*16 & Pregnant* became MTV's newest reality show in 2009. There is much to say about the trainwreck of season 2, Janelle Evans, but one statements explains it all: "I'm not ready to take care of my child."

Photo courtesy www.collegecandy.com

### UNPLUGGED



*MTV Unplugged* is a TV series showcasing many popular musical artists usually playing acoustic instruments. It first aired in 1989 and is still on MTV. Although, most of us do not even know this because it is allotted few hours of air time.

Photo courtesy www.jiwang.org

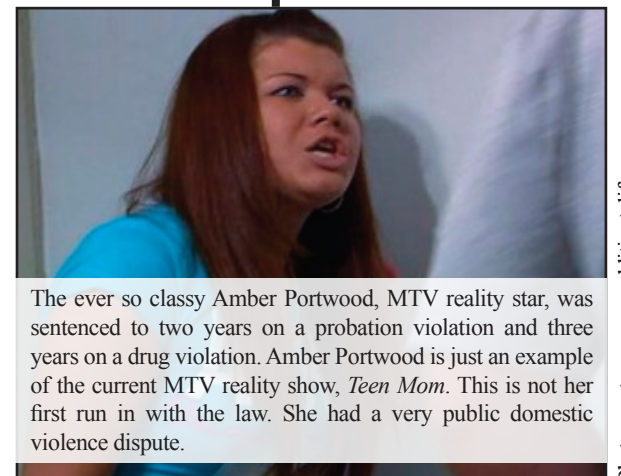
### JERSEY SHORE



*Jersey Shore* first aired in 2009. This show is so tasteless, and relatively upsetting. To feel better about yourself go home and watch an episode.

Photo courtesy www.hollywoodbackwash.com

### TEEN MOM



The ever so classy Amber Portwood, MTV reality star, was sentenced to two years on a probation violation and three years on a drug violation. Amber Portwood is just an example of the current MTV reality show, *Teen Mom*. This is not her first run in with the law. She had a very public domestic violence dispute.

Photo courtesy www.additiontolife.com



# The good and the bad

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor, Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor, Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

All jokes aside, high school is what you make of it. Despite the day-to-day hardships that high school may provide, we are fortunate to be at a school that affords ample opportunity to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Nobody is going to see eye to eye with every teacher they come across, nor will they enjoy every subject they are taught, but at the end of the day, everyone can agree that the options presented to us as students have been numerous and rich. It is important to appreciate that despite certain negative aspects (and every school has them), Berkley has allowed us to expand on our previous interests, and discover new ones in a safe environment where encouragement is everywhere. That, in our opinion, is the mark of a successful high school.

**Pros:**

**#1 It's free:** Let's face it, who does not like free stuff? And a free K-12 education that includes four years in a school ranked among the best by Newsweek magazine sounds pretty darn dandy to me.

**#2 The teachers:** One thing that BHS and the Berkley school district pride itself on is the quality of the teachers. It is not only just a few who are grand, but some may argue that every teacher at this school is among some of the top teachers anywhere. Many could be placed in a category with the likes of Socrates, Confucius, and Dumbledore.

**#3 The orchestra:** The BHS orchestra, for the tenth year in a row, received all 1s at the MSBOA orchestra festival, the best possible score. The orchestra is a fantastic program, with a standard of excellence unrivaled at Berkley.

**Cons:**

**#1 Lack of school spirit:** Not that I've ever done this, but school spirit is so low at BHS, that students commonly skip pep assemblies for seemingly more desirable activities. Let's face it; our sports teams are not exactly the cream of the crop. We certainly experienced a rise in school spirit when our football team made a run at an undefeated season in 2010. Only two options are available to remedy this situation. First, bring Terrell Porter back. He was unreal. Secondly, our teams play better when they have a good crowd behind them. Look at the hockey team, they had one of the best seasons in school history, and they had huge crowds at most of their games, even when on the road. Instead of waiting for the teams to be successful, everyone should come and support all teams when they need it the most.

**#2 The fact that 90 percent of you are not even reading this:** We distribute the *Spectator* once a month, usually with 15 minutes remaining in third hour. By the time fourth hour begins, seemingly half the issues we had passed out were either in a trash or recycling bin, or just on the floor, ripped. If you cannot peel your eyes off your iphones long enough to do something besides glance at the cover, you might have an addiction.

Photo by Barret Hotz



Science teacher Mr. Andy Bruen presents a PowerPoint to his class.

## Teacher favoritism still exists, students irritated

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

Teachers are only human. This is true, but as professionals in the classroom they should refrain from showing any sort of favoritism. Teachers' opinions should, at certain points, be kept to themselves.

Some classes are treasured, while others are not ranked as highly, which can often be attributed to the teacher. Teachers have a way of either making a student's experience enjoyable or completely awful.

Most times a student's likeability is dependent on their performance in the class, if they perform up to the teacher's set standard, they are treated well, if not, they can become the resident punching bag. Other times though, teachers give students special treatment based only upon their liking of them. It leaves the others in the class wondering what to do to get into a teacher's good graces. The question remains: is it okay for certain students to be treated better than others merely because of a teacher's preference? I think not.

Favoritism is a term most are widely familiar with. At some points we have to deal with other people being liked more than oneself. Maybe at times we are stuck with the short end of the figurative stick, but everything that goes around subsequently comes around. We may also be the on the receiving end of favoritism at one time or another.

When teachers always pick the same person to do a task, such as copying papers or going

to the office, it is not that big of a deal. It may happen day after day, but there is nothing any student can do about it. On the other hand, though, when thanks to a teacher's undying favoritism a certain student is allowed to text and update their twitter from their phone, or be marked on time when in reality they were ten minutes tardy, there is a problem. Rules are rules, and every student should abide by them. Just because one student is able to quote a teacher's favorite '90s television show should not give them precedence. "Some people in my classes get special treatment and the teachers don't hide it," sophomore Olivia Elias said. Differing interests and personalities should not give opportunities for teachers to metaphorically beat up on the students who are not dubbed as the class favorite.

Those who are "teachers' pets" find no problems with certain people getting their way over others for no apparent reason. But those left behind certainly do. Everyone strives to be liked, and when a teacher shows their like or dislike for a student openly, it strikes a chord with every person in their class. Equality should always be shown, especially in school. Every student should have an equal chance to succeed and favoritism impedes on that. Teachers' opinions should be strictly kept to whether they liked a student's paper or their homework was done well rather than their openly displayed biases on the bases of who they prefer.

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# The administration does NOT wear Prada: Fashionistas stunted by current dress code requirements

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

A highly sought after benefit of growing up is the ability to make choices and decisions by oneself. The consent of our parents is often needed on a signature line, but beyond that, the decision is ours. It seems as though BHS has intended to limit our ability to make choices and certain decisions on our own through enforcement of over-bearing and invasive rules which pertain to our clothing. The enforcement of these rules causes a drastic problem for both the students and the administration. By trying too hard to enforce them, the school has fallen short of educating us as teachers waste precious class time inspecting our shorts' lengths rather than filling our brains with useful knowledge. While we try too hard to push the limits of these rules, we have fallen short in the process of learning. To amend this damaging situation, actions need to be taken on both sides to focus school more towards educating and less towards irritating the opposing side.

Administrators state that the rules of the school apply to everyone. If that is in fact the case, then it seems the dress code would actually require more enforcement. The ever popular twitter trending topic #tanktuesday makes clear that the guys in our school are allowed to wear tank tops without repercussions. These tank tops need not be four fingers wide nor must they cover up the entire boy, huge gaping slits down the side are very much permitted. Granted the male and female bodies are inherently different, the discrimination and sexism is still undoubtedly present. If the rule is going to stand, the administration must make an effort to enforce it upon all students. In which case, all students would see that it is not acceptable and therefore, most will then not attempt to push the limits.

However, there are some rules that, unlike the tank top situation, cannot be enforced blindly. The idea that all students' fingertips will reach the same length on her legs is not realistic. All of us have different body types. Some have long legs and short arms, while others with short legs and long arms, etc. Our extremities all land on different parts of our bodies making the enforcement of that rule inconsistent. Students of BHS are not so blind to the idea of appropriate versus inappropriate that this rule cannot simply be left up to their discretion. This rule is broken because of two reasons: 1. It exists, and as teenagers we do everything in our power to not follow rules, and 2. It is impractical. If a student is given the trust and freedom to wear what he or she

wants, he or she will not take that freedom and trust lightly; he or she will wear things that do appear as school appropriate for which a fingertip rule would be unnecessary.

The ways in which administrators execute dress code mishaps cause more of a distraction than the clothes themselves. If students in the class had not yet noticed the other student's inappropriate outfit choice, they will now, causing a much larger distraction than before. The teacher taking time to point out this student's mistake will often cause him/her unwanted and unneeded embarrassment in front of her peers. The sensitivity and insecurity of high school girls is already highly prevalent and situations like these only make her more self conscious than she was before. The rules and the ways in which the school rules are required to be enforced must be modified. They should be left up to the discretion of a teacher or an administrator, a living, breathing person who decides if the clothes are as big of a problem as an inanimate "code of conduct" denotatively states.

For the sake of our growing education system, and for the intelligence of our generation along with future ones, the enforcement and ideals of the dress code need serious revision. These rules are often enforced so tyrannically that the purpose of school moves away from learning by means of both the school and the students. The school becomes so set on enforcing its rules that it moves away from its true intentions: trying to make the school appear more like a school and less like a brothel. Now instead, unintentionally it appears to only care about rule enforcement and not appearing as a weak, crumbling infrastructure which allows students to make their own rules. Subsequently, people then only see the rules as tedious and unimportant, leading no one to take neither the administration nor any of the rigid rules seriously. The students then are only interested in pushing the limitations as far as they can, and afterwards causing a scene when their insubordination is called upon. This ultimately pits them against their own teachers, which is opposite the outcome that was intended. It causes the administration to appear weak and ill-equipped to deal with actual problematic situations. It seems both sides of the argument have forgotten the real reason any of us are in school in the first place: to learn. In order for our school to become more useful and to actually serve its purpose, these rules must be modified. The school is in a serious state of hypocrisy as they simultaneously encourage us to become

our own unique person and express ourselves, while they in turn stifle us when we pursue that goal. The dress code has led students to view rules given by the administration as frivolous and nothing more than a nuisance, which is highly more detrimental for an educational environment than a pair of mini shorts.



**SAGGIN'**



**TANK TOPS**



**HATS**



**INAPPROPRIATE GRAPHIC TEES**

All photos by Sam Lubinecky and courtesy of www.shamrchronicles.com

**THE CIRCLE OF LIFE:**

THE TWO DIFFERENT PATHS OF SENIOR YEAR  
Danny Bakst '12, Co-Editor-in-Chief

In nature, animals leave their parents at a much earlier age than humans. You don't normally see a mama lioness freaking out because her cub is leaving the pride and I am pretty sure a female bird is content when she can finally stop regurgitating food directly into her chicks' mouths. These mothers in nature understand that as time goes on; their young grow up and need to separate themselves from their paternal environment. A lot of human parents, especially those in the Berkley community, do not appreciate this simple fact of nature. This misconception usually results in one of two situations.

**Situation number one:** Parents are so upset about their precious babies leaving the nest that they suddenly become much nicer, more giving and a lot more lenient in order to stay on our good sides.

**Situation number two:** Parents start instilling a vicious routine of severe punishment and unwarranted scoldings in order to flex their power and show dominance over their soon-to-be-departed teenagers.

For the lucky son-of-a-bee-stings who are in situation number one, life as a senior is a grand adventure. You're living large, staying out late, bringin' da ruckus all over the Berkley community. It doesn't matter if you go to class, and it doesn't matter if you fail or pass. If you decide to take the afternoon off and spend it at Comerica Park, why the heck not? It's senior year. If you choose to sacrifice class time, grill some brats on a George Foreman grill and toss the Frisbee around with some mates, then so be it, it's senior year. When your mom, Mrs. Leghorn and Mrs. Wallace have become close acquaintances because she calls in the attendance office so often, you are in situation one. If your family access calendar has more red than a bullfighter's wardrobe then you are definitely in situation one. Parents that allow their students this type of freedom create a positive environment, but it also can give teenagers too much liberty. A couple months of partying is not worth getting rejected from your dream college or even worse, getting in irreversable trouble with the law.

Situation one is the dream life for senior students, but it should not be taken for granted. A lot of the senior population is experiencing situation number two, where a simple missed class can result in losing a weekend or two. These students do not have the choice of attending senior skip days or sleeping in on a Tuesday because of a runny nose. Dropping grades do not lead to more parties, rather they lead to more time stuck being yelled at by authority figures. People occupying situation number two are forced to watch their peers living a lavish life while they are stuck in the same old routine they have been doing for the past four years. If you still have a 12:00 curfew and have family meetings after every missed homework assignment you are definitely in situation two. Parents that create this strict environment are not realizing that soon, their kids will be gone. Having students leave home for college with feelings of resentment will not help to create a close relationship as years pass, and could possibly lead to an extreme amount of partying in college because they did not experience it senior year. Parents may think that they are protecting us from ourselves but they are robbing us of valuable life experience.

The key to this issue, along with most aspects of life, is moderation. Creating an environment that mixes both situation one and two will create a more balanced person with a high chance of success once they leave home. Parents in situation one, we appreciate your loose ideals and desire to have a last connection while your children live under your roof, but some boundaries are necessary. If all seniors could do whatever we wanted, the school would seem a lot emptier and the class GPA would be a lot lower. Parents in situation two, we appreciate that you strive for us to be excellent in all aspects of life, but if every once in a while your senior child wants to take the afternoon off or a couple quizzes don't end up with good scores, let us off the hook. Thank you parents, for all that you have done for us, but for just this last month and a half, we got this.

**SHERIFF DOGS DISRUPT EDUCATION:**

A CALL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY REFORM  
Zak Witus '12, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Upon arriving to the school parking lot on April 11 (aka Drug-Dog Day 2012) your intrepid Editor-in-Chief saw six police officers, three administrators, and four German Shepherd Sheriff Dogs scrapping the BHS parking lot for hints of drugs. As a journalist, this police action, which presented fundamental civil and student rights issues, intrigued me, so I approached the scene for a closer look. However, as a Jew, German Shepherds lead by police make me nervous, so I proceeded with caution.

As an administrator, a dog, and two police officers searched a student's car in joint coalition, I followed my journalistic instincts and tried to take a picture. However, the administrator present stopped me. I found this ironic: hadn't I learned about the First Amendment in government last year? I thought about what Thomas Jefferson or John Adams would do. They would stand up for their rights.

Seeing that my presence in the parking lot was noticeably upsetting the authorities, I decided that it was time to go to Statistics Class, when further controversy arose. A posse of police, administrators, and German Shepherds rushed a car trying to leave the lot. The nervous-sounding teenager driving the vehicle tried to defend himself, vainly challenging the police and administration's right to search him and his vehicle. Under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, stopping a moving vehicle requires probable cause to believe a crime has been committed. There was none given to him. However, different rights apply, because under the BSD Code, student drivers "consent, in advance, to the search of his/her vehicle parked on school property when school officials have reason to suspect contraband may be found in the vehicle." He was not parked; he was lawfully moving. Notwithstanding, the police and the administration said what they were doing was legal, and forced the student to park and exit his car. These statements showed a blatant misrepresentation of the student's rights, both Constitutional and those given by Berkley School District Code of Conduct.

Unfortunately, whatever led him to forget his folder that morning, also led to the police officers and Sheriff Dogs finding a pack of rolling papers, a lighter, and what they claim as traces of marijuana in his car. This student, the other one previously mentioned, and four others were all suspended for 10 days.

When asked about the severe punishments imposed on those students caught allegedly or genuinely with contraband, an administrator said, "When a student gets caught with drugs, it's an automatic 10-day suspension." According to the administration, all punishments were automatic and final, with no room for discussion. However, the BSD Code says, "corrective action will be determined by the administration, in its discretion, in accordance with the severity of the offense, a review of the facts and/or special circumstances." In the case of drug possession, the Code provides that students may be placed between steps 2-7 on the disciplinary step system. That means at the least a parent-administrator-student conference, and at the most a long-term (between 10 and 180 days) suspension, and/or recommendation for expulsion. It goes on to clarify that, "Because no two situations are exactly alike, administrators will use their best judgment in determining the appropriate disciplinary procedures based on the circumstances of the situation, including mitigating and exacerbating factors." In all situations, factors such as students' disciplinary records, special circumstances, and the variety of misconducts were not considered by administrators in the disciplinary process. The administrators gave their final disciplinary decisions without any chance for students to defend themselves, parents to protect their children, or for anybody to present information pertaining to each circumstance.

When the administration's enforced policy is contrasted with the BSD Code's written policy, some inconsistencies become clear. Not only did administrators misrepresent the Code, they also misapplied it. While the 10-day suspensions assigned were upheld as automatic, with no room for ambiguity, discretion, or discussion, the BSD Code provides for a more thorough investigation and comprehensive assessment of each case individually. However, don't blame the administrators; they were just trying to do their jobs the best they could. Certain details of the BSD Code, like those quoted above, require time and energy to carefully review and accurately follow. Let's face it, guys, our dear administrators work really hard, and the time has come for the student body to appreciate them. We need another authoritative body to share some of their great and many responsibilities with, namely the ones that involve judgment.

The one making the judgments can't be me, because I'm biased; it can't be the Administration, because it's biased; so adding a judicial branch to our BHS government, whose specific task it is to deal with students' and parents' appeals and hear discussion about cases before finalizing punishments would better ensure that students' rights are respected, and more importantly allow administrators time to deal with their many other duties. When students make mistakes, like bringing drugs to school, they deserve proportionate punishments. When administrators make mistakes, like misrepresenting and misapplying the BSD Code, students deserve to be exempted from the consequences following administrative misconduct. Our administrators have rigorous, time-consuming jobs. Let's allow them to share some of their responsibilities by creating a separate BHS judicial body, group, or person.

In the course of assigning discipline, we must ask ourselves what punishments are the most effective, versus what punishments are the most severe. Obviously, student misconduct deserves an administrative response, just not like the ones our administration currently gives out. Not only failing to embrace those troubled students, but also forbidding them from returning to school is not the answer, more school and more education seems a drastically better solution. Putting students on academic probation, as an alternative punishment, would absolutely foster education better than forbidding them from coming to school for 10 days. If the worry is further disruptions, refer them to a school counselor to work out personal issues, or place them on a disciplinary probation, discouraging future misconducts. While the administration perceives suspensions as their most severe form of punishment, much more effective methods for correcting student misconduct exist. Many of which are less harmful to education than suspensions, but still send the message that the given misconduct is unacceptable. Furthermore, many students enjoy these supposed punishments, and delight in spending time away from school. Only as a last resort should the BHS Administrators reject students, telling them, "we don't want you here," because that's a failure on their part: a failure to engage, a failure to inspire, and definitely not a catalyst for higher achievement, as the benchmarks on the cover page of the BSD Code of Conduct state.