

SPECTATOR

March 2012



Volume LXIV, Issue VI Berkley High School



Smartphone Addictions 9



March Madness: Puppies 10-11



The Sounds of Berkley High 13



Red Wings' Press Day 19

SPECTATOR STAFF

Editors-in-Chief:
Zak Witus & Danny Bakst

**Managing Editor &
Layout Director:**
Sam Lubinecky

Copy Editor:
Shelby Silver

Ad/Business Manager:
Jacob Rothman

Photo Editor:
Barret Hotz

News Editor:
Mitchell Hart

Feature Editor:
Alison Jones

Bull's Eye Editor:
Meagan Soffin

Student Life Editor:
Veronica Marchese

Sports Editor:
Lindsay McFern

Entertainment Editors:
Aaron Cohen &
Clarissa Donnelly

Opinion Editor:
Jimmy Demery

Circulation Manager:
Clarissa Donnelly

Freelance Writers:
Olivia Wood
Julia Pompilius
Lenie Siegel

Adviser: Ms. Mullins

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE STUDENT JOURNALIST

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. The Berkley High School Spectator is published by the Journalism class in Room 116. All articles express the sole opinions of the writers and are fully backed by facts, quotes and legitimate resources. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by e-mail or mail. Address: 2325 Catalpa Berkley, MI 48072. E-mail: bhsspectator@yahoo.com.

HOROSCOPES

Sam Lubinecky '12, Managing Editor and Layout Director



Aries: March 21 - April 19
Happy Birthday to all Aries! Follow your instinct this month. If your gut tells you not to do something, don't do it. If not, you may get yourself involved in something way more complicated than you could ever imagine. Stay out of things and remember to enjoy your birthday.



Taurus: April 20 - May 20
You have a tendency to involve yourself very heavily in most things. Make sure not to overdo things this month and maintain a laid back attitude. Do not make any rash decisions and make sure you think things through.



Gemini: May 21 - June 20
It is time to do some damage control. Make sure you make amends with your past and especially those you may have hurt. Do not let people push your buttons. Just ignore it and the problem will eventually leave you alone.



Cancer: June 21 - July 22
For some reason you will take a lot of things way more seriously than usual. Don't let silly jokes get to you; people aren't actually trying to hurt you. Vent your frustrations and don't let it become a problem.



Leo: July 23 - August 23
Creativity will come very easily to you this month. Make sure to use it to your full advantage. Many opportunities for summer jobs or internships will come up. Make sure to check out all your options before making a commitment.



Virgo: August 24 - September 23
The days will go by very slowly and you will feel like you aren't making any progress. An easy solution is making a count down to summer or making a list of things you need to do everyday. Instead of sulking around, enjoy yourself and get together with friends.



Libra: September 24 - October 22
If you are in a relationship you may start feeling differently. Whether it is good or bad there will be a mutual shift in the connection. Being direct and standing up for yourself is crucial. Don't hesitate tell people exactly what you think, even if it is harsh.



Scorpio: October 23 - November 21
Love is a very confusing matter. Don't worry you are not alone. Unfortunately, this month will take the confusion and amplify it greatly. Make sure to stay on time and not to cancel any commitments. It will help greatly not only in everyday life, but with love.



Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21
Prepare for a whirlwind of events. Being kept on your toes will not even compare to how busy you will be this month. Stay organized and ask for help when you need it. Don't let pride get in the way.



Capricorn: December 22 - January 19
It is time to do a little spring cleaning. You'd be surprised to find the things you will be hiding in the corners of your room. Also this is a very crucial time to figure out what you want to do over the summer. Travel? Work? Be lazy? Whatever it is, it is time to decide.



Aquarius: January 20 - February 18
Get all of your facts straight before you verbally or even physically attack someone. Things may not be as they seem. Make sure you realize who your friends are and also who are not. Limits will be pushed this month and fake personas will finally be revealed.



Pisces February 19 - March 20
It is time to focus on yourself a little more. Put your needs before others' wants. For you this may seem like a selfish task, but you need to realize that you may be getting used. If you are in a relationship it may be time to really see if it is all worth it.

PATRONS



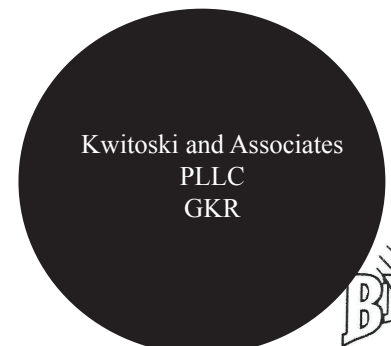
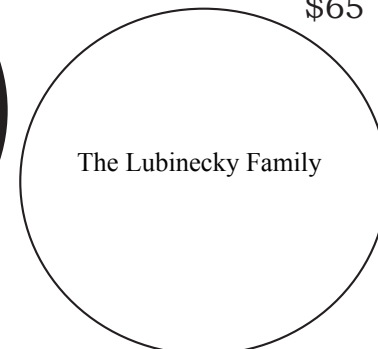
Bronze
\$20

Silver
\$35



Gold
\$50


Platinum
\$65




Diamond
\$100



CELEBRATE WITH THE GREATEST INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE COUNTRY!



info@startrax.com
www.startrax.com
248.263.6300




Remaining 2011-2012
BHS PTSA Meeting Dates:

<p>•April 17, 2012: Common Core Standards Presentation in the Media Center 7:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>•May 15, 2012: BHS Collaborative Center 7:00 p.m.</p>	

"While You're Away"
Pet Sitting

janweissdembs@wowway.com



Jan Weiss Dembs
Excellent References/Experienced

(248) 691-4293 (home)
(248) 514-9019 (cell)



HOGGER'S
BBQ, SANDWICHES
& MORE

2959 W. Twelve Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 48072
(248)548-2400
www.eatathoggers.com



Matthew H. Gross
Jewelry Studio

Graduate Gemologist - Jewelry Designer

Repairs-Appraisals-Watch Batteries-Engraving-Designing

2689 Coolidge @ Catalpa
Berkley, Michigan 48072

248.584.0253
www.mhgjewelry.com

4 THE SPECTATOR

Hope for Hope: one cancer patient's wish

Lenie Siegel '14, Freelance Writer

If one was diagnosed with a potentially fatal illness, one would think that his or her life would crumble apart. With Wylie E. Groves High School freshman, Hope Sovran, however, there is nothing but optimism. Hope was born with spina bifida and has been recently diagnosed with aplastic anemia—a critical condition where the body does not produce enough blood cells. As the disease progressed, it became clear that a bone marrow transplant was necessary. After discovering that Hope's 7-year-old sister, Kathleen, was a perfect match to be a donor, the procedure was scheduled for Feb. 28, 2012.

The one wish that Hope had was to Skype with the woman whom she admired most: Ellen DeGeneres. In response to her daughter's wish, her mother, Nancy Sovran, created a group on Facebook called, "Hi Ellen DeGeneres, it's me Hope Sovran" and hashtag #hiellenitshope on Twitter.

When she first developed the Facebook group, Nancy had hope for a couple hundred to join. After just two weeks, there were almost 13,000 members supporting Hope and her family. Every time one goes back to the Facebook group's wall, there is always a new post reading the usual "you're in our prayers, Hope" and "you're one brave little girl." It is amazing to see the enormous amount of support coming from close friends of the Sovran's, but even more heartening are the posts from people who do not even personally know Hope. "[Hope] loves when we read her the FB posts from everyone! We cannot tell you the strength you all have provided us. It has touched our family and has forever changed us," Nancy posted.

As an early on member of the online group, sophomore McKenna Donahue

showed her continuous support for this little girl. "Once I got added to the group, I knew that I had to add my family and friends. Hope and Kathleen are such brave girls, and I want to encourage everyone to make this cause as public as it can get" Donahue said.

While many people like Donahue were still trying to get in contact with DeGeneres through Facebook, others were making an effort to support Hope through Twitter. Even legendary singer Cher tweeted #hiellenitshope to bring more publicity to the cause.

As the struggle to get in contact with DeGeneres continued, it came time for Hope's bone marrow transplant. On Feb. 28, Hope and Kathleen had the procedure completed. All ran smoothly and the girls started on the track to recovery.

On the day following the surgery Nancy posted, "Dear FB friends, the day after the transplant can be difficult and it has been, but when you get a call from Ellen DeGeneres it makes your day brighter! Ellen even called our home to talk with Kathleen to tell her how brave she was." Initially, Hope had just wanted to Skype with her hero. After finishing that phone call, however, the Sovran family learned that DeGeneres had invited Hope and her mom to her show.

This was the ultimate prize for Hope. After all of the hardships she had to face during chemotherapy, there was actually something to look forward to. Hope's one wish has been granted, but her online supporters have never stopped with the warm and endearing messages.

If you would like to be a part of supporting this incredible person, join the Facebook group or tweet the hashtag. Hope is just now recovering from the transplant.

She needs everyone's support and positive words now more than ever.

"Dear FB friends, the day after the transplant can be difficult and it has been, but when you get a call from Ellen DeGeneres it makes your day brighter!"
-Hope Sovran



Photo courtesy of Detroit News

Hope on the phone with Ellen after her transplant.

To become a part of supporting this incredible person, join the Facebook group or tweet the hashtag. Hope is just now recovering from the transplant. She needs everyone's support and positive words now more than ever.

Facebook: "Hi Ellen DeGeneres, it's me Hope Sovran"

Twitter: #hiellenitshope

Read in the Park: Famous authors come to Berkley

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor

On March 18, kids from all elementary schools in the Berkley School District gathered in the BHS collaborative center for the 5th annual Read in the Park event. Books from the featured authors were up for sale, including signatures from the authors themselves. Work from Berkley's own students was also on display.

The speakers included the authors and illustrators, Scott Seegert and John Martin, of the children's series *Vordak*, a comic book-like series about a super villain. Seegert even led a free drawing workshop following his speech.

Following this, author Helen Frost and photographer Rick Leider presented. Leider photographs insects and other wildlife. Many of his pictures were also available for viewing. Frost and Leider talked about their upcoming collaboration, *Step Gently Out*, a picture book.

The final speaker was New York Times Bestselling author Kelly Dippucchio. She is the writer of such books as *Zombie in Love* and *Crafty Chloe*, both of which were very successful.

Mary Beth Schlau, the director of the event, on the purpose of Read in the Park said, "Our mission for read in the park is to foster a love of reading by connecting students with authors and illustrators through the books they create."

The event was quite a success. Kids and adults alike had a wonderful time, and the authors themselves look forward to this event every year.

**DYNASTY
FLOWERS**
AND GIFTS

A FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

Eclectic collections show unique interests

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

As of late, the sometimes peculiar art of “collecting” has taken over, finding its way into not only our lives, but popular television shows, as well.

While we all may have bizarre collections, rest assured that they are normal in comparison to the interesting and mostly downright strange collections featured on the show *Oddities*. Airing every Thursday on the Discovery Channel, viewers are sure to be exposed to a shocking amount of wild and crazy collectable items that include: mummified cats, coffins, artwork made entirely of human nails, and stuffed animals in various situations, among many others.

Another show, which features a plethora of collectable items, is PBS' *Antiques Roadshow*. As the name suggests, this show is brimming with antiques perfect for hardcore collectors looking to expand their collection, or even to start a new one.

Not only is collecting gaining popularity in the media, but it has made its way into the halls of BHS, as well. Sophomore David Pellerito, who collects slot cars, said he collects them because “they’re very unique and bring out [his] inner child.” Like Pellerito, sophomore Dakota Morche has been collecting Hot Wheels cars since the young age of five. With a collection now surpassing 200 cars, Morche said, “I like the style of the cars and hope to one day drive a car similar to the ones I collect.”

While some collectors are in it for the money, hoping that the items they obtain will one day have monetary value, others do it simply to participate in something unique. Freshman Logan Donnelly is a prime example of collecting for the fun of it, considering he collects empty cans of

body spray. Donnelly said, “I paint [the empty cans] black and try to scare people by pretending it is pepper-spray.”

Because we do live in the internet age, where everything you could possibly think of can be found somewhere on the internet, there has never been a better time for expanding your collection of all things quirky and cool. There are various websites, such as the Collector's Online Market, where one can rejoice at having everything they could possibly imagine collecting at their fingertips.

Over the years, more and more people have picked up the hobby of collecting. In viewing a personal collection, one can gain insight about the collector, which is why it has become such a popular way to express oneself. If you find something that interests you, start a collection and watch as it grows into a one of a kind display of your personality. Freshman Kearstin Garland knows all about this, with her large collection of snow globes. Collected “while on vacation or anywhere out of state,” Garland’s snow globes represent her character well.

Take heed, though, for even the most harmless of collections can quickly spiral out of control, consuming your life. This epidemic of hoarding, meaning you literally think that everything is a collectable item, no matter how inconsequential it seems, is featured in the notorious show *Hoarding: Buried Alive*. The last thing you want is to be turned into the next compulsive star of *Hoarding: Buried Alive*, so check yourself before you wreck yourself.



Man poses with his massive collection of Chuck Taylor All-Star Converse shoes.

Photo courtesy of Blogspot.com

Variety Show displays talent

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor

The annual BHS Variety Show was held by Student Leadership on March 13, 2012, in the school's auditorium. There are five words that can only be used to describe the BHS Variety Show: BHS really does have talent. Student Leadership put together an amazing show that was enjoyed thoroughly by everyone in the audience. From dancing to a guitar solo, to reading an original poem, the 26 contestants did a fantastic job.

Along with all of the talented students, the two hostesses, sophomore Shelby Miller and junior Alexandra Fahoome, never failed to amuse the audience with their funny jokes. There were three acts that stood out even from the rest of the talented performers.

Juniors Timothy Dalian and Robin Collins sang a duet to the classic song, “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen. The couple preformed their own rendition of the classic song and they definitely won over the audience. Freshman Eliza Laramée said, “Robin had a really good voice and it was so good. Tim was a really good guitar player.” Sophomore Gabe Gedda-Shaheen also said, “Hallelujah was really good, I loved the way that they harmonized.” The duo placed second in the Variety Show and it was well deserved.

Dancing to a dubstep version of “Whatcha Say,” by Jason Derulo, freshman Melvin Sylvester showed off his robotic skills. Many found it to be really cool to watch. Sophomore Sam Byck said, “It was so good! I thought it was really cool how he mixed all of the different beats together.” If Sylvester is this good of a dancer as a freshman, imagine how good he will be as a senior.

As a tribute to BHS's beloved Ms. Margine Price, Mr. Zyrd played his guitar in a solo act. Zyrd was not originally scheduled to play, and it was a surprise to the whole audience. Byck said, “It was really cute. It touched my heart and his tribute hit me deep.” What he did for Price was spectacular and although she was not in the audience to be blown away at what a good guitarist Zyrd is, she was in everyone's thoughts.

To all of those who did not attend the Variety Show it exceeded the expectations of all in attendance and was worth the two hours that it took to get through all of the acts. Next year, there will be even more talent coming in, making the show even better than it was this year. Family members, faculty, and students should all come and support all of the talented students, and the occasional teacher, who perform.



Performing at the Variety Show senior Nitasha Kernen-Fox, freshman Melvin Sylvester and junior Rachael Wojta show off their musical talents.

Photos by Shelby Silver

6 THE SPECTATOR

Different schooling brings different opportunities

Online Schooling

Jake Rothman '14, Business/Ad Manager

Although online schooling is not always a result of positive circumstances, this innovative way of learning has its benefits. As most unique forms of education do, online education has some advantages and disadvantages.

At BHS, E2020 helps many students make up past work while learning current material. The program gives students the opportunity to redo a class they have failed in the previous semester. Students who are involved are able to use technology to advance their learning abilities in a regular BHS class.

The second chance, in and of itself, is a huge advantage to those students in E2020. Each student has the opportunity to receive two full credits for the work they complete in only one semester. However, the drawback of E2020 is students only receive this opportunity because they have previously failed a required class.

For students in the E2020 program the lack of homework is a plus. Sophomore and E2020 student Jonathan McCann said,

“If you do well on homework, and pass the tests, then you will stay ahead in the program.”

The actual program provides its own benefits to participants. E2020 students take a pre-test before each previously learned chapter that is required to pass the class. If the pre-test is passed then that student does not have to re-learn the chapter and can move on to the next chapter.

The E2020 process is not always as simple as passing a pre-test. If the pre-test is failed then the chapter must be learned again online, followed by the usual quiz and chapter test. Referring to the pre-test program, McCann said, “If you’re ahead it’s good”.

However, McCann admits the constant re-taking of tests is annoying. This is because anything lower than a 70 on a test requires students to learn the material again and therefore take another of the same test.

Although the program is a great opportunity for students

to re-gain credit, E2020 also comes with some difficulties. With double the classes comes double the material and with double the material then comes significantly more time needed to complete the work. Math and E2020 teacher Ms. Katelyn Wong said to successfully manage time and do well in E2020 students “have to be self-disciplined.”

Another disadvantage that comes with the E2020 program is the technology itself. Wong believes an actual student to teacher hands on experience is more beneficial than learning over the Internet. There may be mixed views on the topic but regardless the one-on-one time with teachers is irreplaceable by a computer.

This technologically advanced way of learning provides many benefits to those in the program. With increasingly effective and innovative ways of teaching always becoming available, BHS students could see technology incorporated more and more into daily schooling.

Home Schooling

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

For a BHS student the typical school day starts promptly at 7:40 a.m., with each class lasting precisely 61 minutes, but this is not the case with all students. While most have a designated time to be at their school, home school student Ali Childers is a different case entirely.

Her school day starts whenever she wakes up and goes till whenever she feels she has learned enough for one day. Although she does not necessarily learn all the same material at the same pace that we do, she still manages to get the identical diploma that all of us here do. Childers also says that with her mom as her teacher, she does not have as strict of deadlines that public school kids do. Also, because her classroom is in the comfort of her own home, she does not feel as stressed out with school because she is so relaxed.

Another plus side to being home schooled is knowing that you will not be bombarded with tons of homework and loads of projects all due on the same day; rarely do home schooled students ever get a big project or a huge test to study for because all is done at one’s home.

Some of the advantages to being a home schooled student are that they have a lot of one-on-

one attention seeing as they are the only student, or one of a few in their class. They never have to worry about getting lost or things going too fast for them because your teacher is always right there with them and they are able to ask as many questions as needed to be able to understand.

There are also downsides to being home schooled; one does not have the same social setting that another student would if they were in a public school. One does not have some of the same opportunities, like prom and being involved in sports, that public school kids do. In addition, one can essentially take whatever classes they want. They are able to create their own schedule and there is really no way to get kicked out of their classes, and there is really no possible way they can be kicked out of school.

Home schooling and going to a public school both have their pros and cons, but students who go to a public school, like Berkley, should be grateful for the opportunities public school provides along with the ability to be around other students each day.

Private School

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

7:40 a.m. We drive ten minutes down Lake Shore Dr, passing huge, beautiful houses that overlook Lake St. Claire, to University of Liggett School (ULS) in Grosse Point. ULS is a private school in the heart of Grosse Point Woods that “challenges students to excel academically, to cultivate intellectual freedom and instill a sense of cultural competency,” for a fee of \$21,780 a year, that is.

As a ULS student, boys are required to wear a collared shirt and nice pants and the general descriptor of “nice clothing” for the girls, which does not include jeans or yoga pants. Most students, however, tend to wear what they want. For instance, the girls wear yoga pants irregardless of the clothing restrictions and most students there look similar to those of BHS. One student commented on their informal dress-code, saying “they used to be really strict about what we wore; now they don’t really care.”

Their schedule is as follows: 8-8:05 is advisory which is like a homeroom where students check in and hear announcements; 8:05-8:55 is first hour; 8:55-10:10 is second hour; 10:10-11 is their community time, which some students refer to as their “chill time.” During community time there is hot chocolate and coffee available in the cafeteria where most students just sit and

talk for this time, and although it is a time allotted for a study hall, it becomes everyone’s social time. Most students agreed when community time was said to be pointless, saying that “we have a ridiculous amount of free time, like in advisory, which is usually used to be late to school; community time is pointless when you don’t have homework, but it’s cool though.” 11:50-12:45 is third hour and then 12:45-1:10 is lunch. Yes, that’s right, lunch is 25 minutes long, and to top it all off, juniors only recently this semester got open lunch, while seniors have always had it open. 1:15-2:05 is fourth hour and 2-3:00 is fifth hour. Classes are roughly 50-60 minutes long and at the end of each class teachers simply dismiss students, there are no bells.

Not only do students have community time but most students have another free period, for “studying” purposes. They have six classes total, with five everyday - their schedule goes in rotations, similar to BHS’ long lost block schedule (may it RIP, forever missed). ULS students really enjoy the alternating schedule because each day of the week is set up a differently, keeping them a little more than slightly interested.

Compared to BHS, ULS was extremely laid back. Nearly every student would have their phones out in plain sight, and what did their teachers do? Simply ignored them. Their teachers

then continued teaching even though it was clear that no one was paying attention. Here at BHS, although the occasional teacher will pretend not to notice the student who “secretly” texts under the desk, teachers do not like to be ignored. If students at BHS are distracted by an electronic device, kiss that thing goodbye. BHS teachers will not be ignored – which is appreciated by students who enjoy learning rather than being distracted. They also have more than half the course options than BHS does, most likely because their graduation class is a mere 70 students, so a large selection of classes is relatively unnecessary.

ULS also requires their students sign up for two sports, accompanying their academics. This could be another reason for their laid back schedule. Their sports teams recruit for the teams, and it pays off since on March 10 their hockey team won the title Division 3 champions.

When asked, many students said they do not really enjoy attending ULS. So given the choice between a school one would have to pay for, for the same, if not worse education, BHS should be the clear winner.

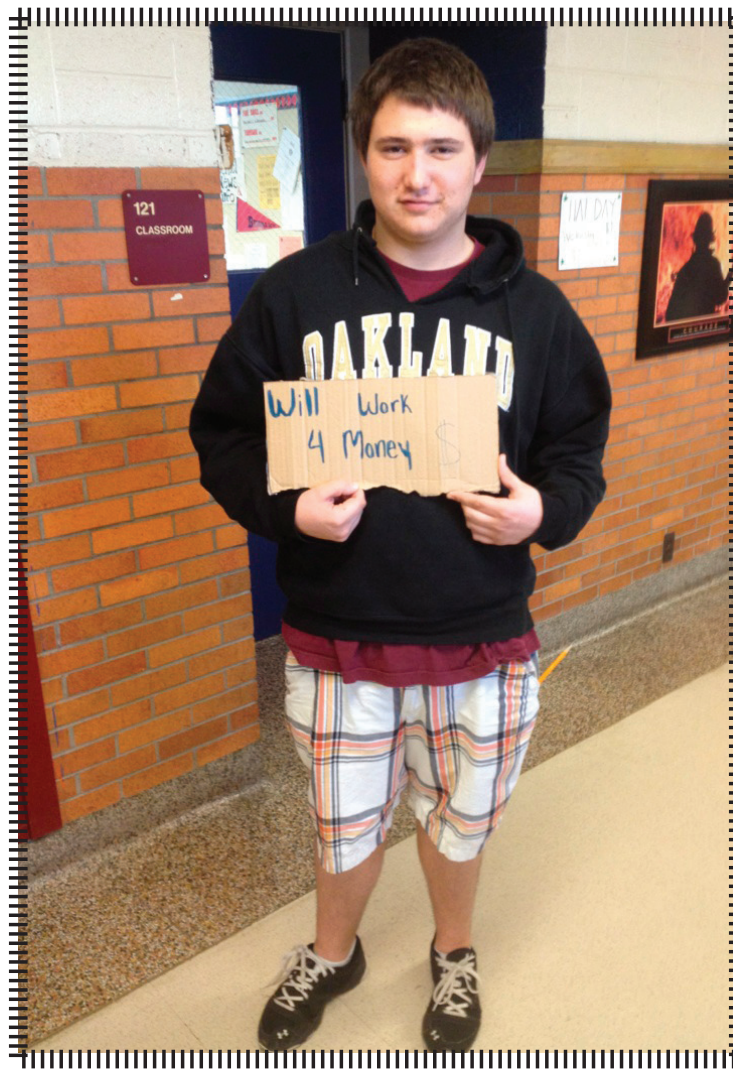
Students struggle finding jobs

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

Money is an issue that looms over most students. From shopping trips to one's gas tank, money is always necessary. Most students, since their youth, have heard of the economic hardships throughout our nation whether it had been from their parents talking or from watching the morning news. The growing deficit and the unemployment rate have, in recent years, been important issues, but to some it is now becoming more significant because they are growing older. Upon turning 16, job opportunities may seem endless, but those "Now Hiring!" and "Job Opportunities Here" signs may be very deceiving.

Michigan is one of the most economically stressed states in the nation. Our early years were full of automobiles and Motown, but as those glory years faded, so did most jobs. Now we are plagued with frightening unemployment rates and foreclosure signs. As our elders struggle, the later generations do too. Experience is limited in the younger class of working people, and the knowledge of how to find a job is inadequate. "It's hard to find a job when most places look for people with experience," junior Sam Nagy said. Many jobs deemed as a "student job" have now become a job of a working parent looking to grab extra shifts to support their family, or a person who recently lost their formerly stable job deciding to work below their level of experience in order to survive.

Granted most students' worries consist of getting the latest concert tickets or new additions to their wardrobes rather than losing their home or supporting their family, however it does not discount their needs. They need and want a place to work just as much as an elder under more pressure. Teens are pushed to be responsible since the day they enter school, and a job is just one milestone of responsibility. Jobs lead teens to learn



Junior Jacob Blurie is desperate for a job, any job, that is.

basic skills needed for the rest of their lives, but our country's economic state takes that from us. Younger citizens are now forced to wait longer to start working and building a career than those who came before them.

Across the country, only 17 out of every 100 students looking for a job get one, according to Stephen Gandall of TIME magazine. "I've applied at four Taco Bells and haven't gotten calls back yet," sophomore Jadah McNish said. Being young in the job industry has many disadvantages. It is hard to try to gain independence from one's parents when her or she has to depend on them completely for money. "I want a job to make my own money," McNish said. A job gives students a purpose outside from school, letting them expand their horizons and grow up tremendously.

Though it is very tough to get a job these days, it is possible. It is helpful to make a one-page resume with accurate contact information. If one truly has no experience students can list hobbies or volunteer work, and they can add school activities which may seem relevant to the job you are applying for. Lastly make a list of traits or skills appropriate for the job to which one is applying for. Turn in the application promptly, and if need be make a follow-up call, as this shows complete interest in the job opportunity.

Before applying anywhere look online where employers may be hiring. Be sure to look presentable before going to the possible job local; appearance is key. Also, prepare yourself for negative responses, and if rejected react nicely. Every step in the process of job hunting is vital, as long as one follows these simple steps, finding work is definitely possible.

The process of getting a job may take the promising applicant through many trials and tribulations. But it is best to put one on the job market completely and as much as possible. Try and apply to every place as you go. Our economy may be in a slump and work may be hard to find but that does not stop one from having to live. Jobs are out there; it is your job to try to find them.

Photo by Barret Hotz

VOTED #1 SKATE SHOP #1 SNOWBOARD SHOP #1 SKATE PARK



29862 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 545-5700

Shop online at www.modernskate.com

find us on Facebook and Twitter!



1500 N. Stephenson Hwy.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 546-7275



Michigan Graphics & Awards

3742 W. 12 Mile Rd. Berkley, MI 48072
P: 248 398-6400 F: 248 398-4724

GO BEARS!

Awards
Embedments
Plaques
Promotional Items
Signage
Trophies

www.michigangraphics.com

8 THE SPECTATOR

Poor hygiene problems find their way through halls

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

As high school students, we should all have around the same idea of proper social etiquette and thus proper hygiene. However, due to the following encounters I have had, and on more than one occasion, it appears that a majority of students at this school have not adapted to the necessary and proper protocol of cleanliness that is expected of him or her:

Bathroom etiquette: My lack of entrance into the male bathroom has impaired my ability to speak for the opposite gender; the females however, seem to miss the large hole in the middle of the toilet quite too often. How is this possible, one may ask? That my dear friends, is something I am still trying to grasp. As all should know by know: girls sit, boys stand. So how a girl misses, really does not make gravitational, anatomical, or any other science term one may use, sense. If one is a member of the female gender and in some unfortunate series of events proceeds to make a 'mess', I plead that said female cleans up after herself, then no one else will know of her misfortunate miss.

Hair, EVERYWHERE: And when I say everywhere, I truly mean everywhere. The occasional hairs that fall out during class are not the problem. The issue at hand is that often observed is a girl strolling through the halls brushing her hair. I am not really one to brush my hair, brushing makes mine frizzy, but for those who are, why do it as school? First of all, any person who has

observed the brushing of the hair now has a tainted view. He or she now knows that the perfection of the hair is not pure, but rather caused by the hairbrush. And second of all, does it really take such an extended period of time that the task was unable to be finished at home? Similarly, when one brushes her hair at school not a few strands fall out, but massive wads fall out. These heaping balls of hair end up filling the halls, bathroom sinks, and eventually engross our entire school. I am already made nauseous by own hair piled into the shower drain at home, so taking an unknown girl's hair out of the sink drains so I am able to wash my hands is not something I care to do. Carrying around brushes is also far from sanitary, seeing as many could easily contain lice, and I would assume that one would not like to be held accountable for the outbreak. Moral of the story: keep hair products at home.

Body Odor: Many times when given new seats in a class I have discovered that my new desk partner has not showered in the past month. My question is, why? Does one not enjoy the feeling of being clean? Does one enjoy his or her hair to be slicked down with grease? More importantly, is one not embarrassed that often he or she is known as 'the kid who smells bad' and is avoided by as many students as possible? If money seems to be the problem, there are showers in both

the girl's and boy's locker rooms. The scent that may arise on clothes due to lack of washing machine or laundromat access can also be fixed by Downey dryer sheets or sprayable Downey refresher. Rude is not the tone I am

trying to communicate, but rather concerned, and looking out for my fellow students. Take advantage of dryer sheets and laundry detergent fragrance as I do.



Junior Heather Graves demonstrates proper hygiene by washing her hands.

Photo by Alison Jones



DIGITAL DETOX: KICKING OUR SMARTPHONE HABITS

Zak Witus '12, Co-Editor-in-Chief and Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

Today, not alcohol, marijuana, nor cocaine, but rather the smartphone is the most highly used and abused drug on the market. As a result of constantly keeping this “e-vice” strapped on our person at all times, getting one’s social networking/texting fix can be done almost anywhere at anytime: in class, on the toilet, or even behind the wheel. It seems people, our generation especially, refuse to keep any place, moment or experience pure of smartphones and the distractions they carry. Vicarious use of e-social media has obstructed social inhibitions and birthed a new brand of voiceless communication. Mankind has partially succeeded in using these devices to dissuade his eternal human anxiety of being alone. However, the ways we’ve attempted to dodge our fears of isolation have paradoxically grown to isolate us more from one another. These gadgets have indeed become toxic to our social lives, and if people do not begin to learn restraint and moderation with their cellular/cyber vices, this drug habit will ultimately render them completely socially inept.

With our society vicariously socializing through media like social networks, texting, and other smartphone applications, a life without them seems incomprehensible. However, after reckoning with our own smartphone addictions, specifically the ways we used social networking (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) and messaging (i.e. texting, iMessaging) applications, we resolved to radically experiment with a one-week long total abstinence from the cited social apps. During our weeklong reversion to the simpler times of only calling and emailing, the ridiculous, drug-like attachment nearly all people have to their smartphones became evident.

It seems members of society use their smartphones parallel to the way a drug addict uses a drug, to merely distract and offer a temporary escape from their true problems at hand. So ultimately, when we reacquainted ourselves with the crumbling world we left behind, utilizing our new clearer, objective perspective, we rationalized the situations when texting and social networking are appropriate and relatively beneficial, and when they are overtly inappropriate and harmful (See below.)

Although the liberation we felt from not texting and social networking was overall peaceful and enjoyable, absolutely omitting it from our lives proved impractical. Because everyone’s social interactions and business dealings have become so intertwined with these communication services, when we cut ourselves off from these services, specifically texting, we isolated ourselves to a fault. Yes, greater solitude was a major goal and achievement of our experiment; however the high levels of disconnect and unavailability isolated us to an undesirable end.

The common practices of social network and text message communication and interaction need to be highly reduced for all of our sakes. Despite that there clearly would be no text or other social notifications on our phones’ home screens, force of habit kept us compulsively checking them. But, because of the drastically decreased amount of digital distractions, an uninterrupted flow of thought was achieved and allowed for better, faster work to take place. Studying for anatomy, doing AP Statistics homework, and even the writing of this article itself were done without any vibrating or beeping interruptions from our pockets. Furthermore,

without mixed socializing between texting and social networking, actual verbal, human conversations took place, granting us with more gratification than would be achieved through prior pseudo-communication strategies.

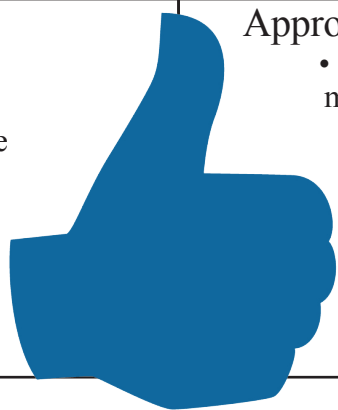
It seems that generally, if social networking sites had never been invented, we could live, and very well in our opinion, without them. Unfortunately, society, our generation especially, has learned to vicariously socialize electronically, dividing each one of us between a “cyber-self” and an actual human-self. The cyber-self’s capacity to honestly express his/her feelings and articulate his/her thought pails highly lacks in comparison to the human-self who can utilize the arts of verbalization and gesticulation.

We, as inherently social creatures, must learn for ourselves when it is appropriate to converse and communicate electronically, and when it is insufficient, and ultimately destructive, in contrast with real human interaction. As in the more common drug habits, staying absolutely clean is not the realistic option; the key is moderation. Even though shooting up heroin all day would probably feel euphoric to a drug user, it is—if we may be so bold as to say—not acceptable, similar to the unhealthy habits a majority of people exemplify through their current text messaging and social networking practices. But hey, don’t take our word for it. Try a “digital detox” yourselves—we promise there won’t be any physical withdrawals. Experience the beautiful liberation abstinence from technology has to offer. Only then with a fresh, clean, and clearer perspective can one hope to comprehend the problems with their own detrimental e-social habits.

TEXTING

Appropriate:

- Quick questions (i.e. homework questions)
- Brief conversations (i.e. making plans)
- Covert interactions, when speaking out loud would be inappropriate. (i.e. talking about others in the room without their knowledge)
- When there aren’t other important things going on, and unfortunately, in dreary old suburbia that’s often



Inappropriate:

- Avoiding awkwardness, instead of addressing it
- When using it obscures one’s true identity, specifically through the reduced inhibitions it causes in people, which ultimately leads them to do and say things that they wouldn’t otherwise. (i.e. cyber-bullying and slander)
 - When using is at the expense of the present moment (i.e. hanging out with friends, at the dinner table, or at school.) Generally, experiences that one would benefit from being fully present for
 - Conversations or correspondences about important topics, which require more critical and extensive discussion

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Appropriate:

- Sharing witty, creative, and/or funny thoughts, which others may enjoy
- Sharing things like photos, web links, or other information other people could benefit from or enjoy knowing/hearing

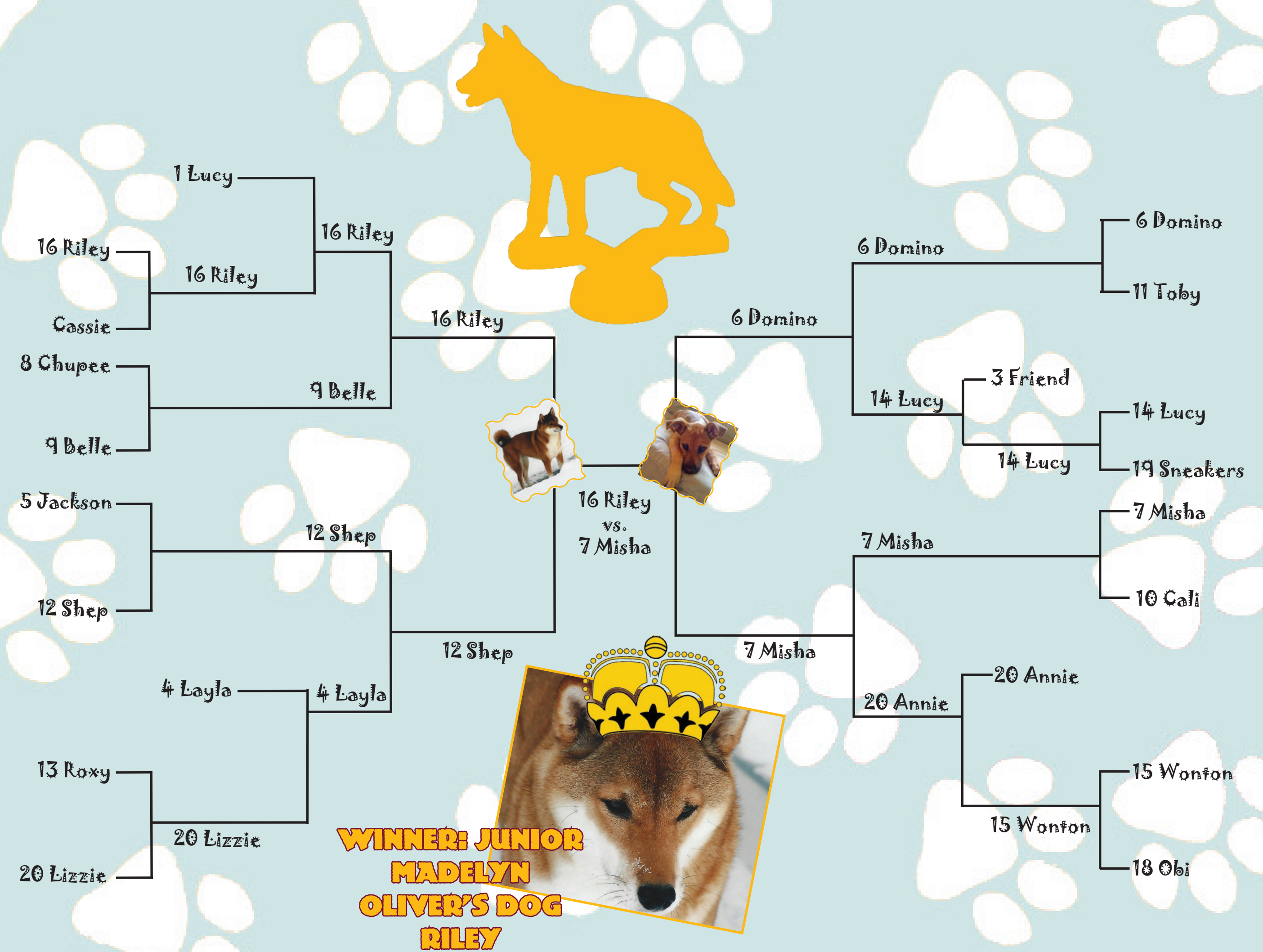


- Voicing complaints, building relationships

- When one’s social networking practices become over-personal. In other words, social networking primarily for one’s own pleasure, not for others as it should be

-  1. Pet Name: Lucy
Breed: Black Lab & Pitbull
Owner: Alexandra Fahome
-  2. Pet Name: Annie
Breed: Beagle & Pointer
Owner: Denny Dubzinski
-  3. Pet Name: Friend
Breed: Mutt
Owner: Lena McPherson
-  4. Pet Name: Layla
Breed: Japanese Chin Bechon
Owner: Brianna Louser
-  5. Pet Name: Jackson
Breed: Lhasa Apso
Owner: Daniel & Chloe Bakst
-  6. Pet Name: Domino
Breed: American Bulldog
Owner: Quincy Hutcherson
-  7. Pet Name: Misha
Breed: Mut
Owner: Clarissa Donnelly
-  8. Pet Name: Chupee
Breed: Chihuahua & Dachshund
Owners: Sam & Malindi Lubinecky
-  9. Pet Name: Belle
Owner: Sam Gleason
-  10. Pet Name: Cali
Breed: Yellow Lab
Owner: Mr. Meacham

-  11. Pet Name: Toby
Breed: American Eskimo & Pomeranian
Owner: Stuart Oleinick
-  12. Pet Name: Shep
Breed: German Shepard
Owner: Mr. Waldman
-  13. Pet Name: Roxy
Breed: Laberdoodle
Owner: Aaron Cohen
-  14. Pet Name: Lucy
Breed: Pitbull & Bulldog
Owner: Sophie Bruza
-  15. Pet Name: Wonton
Breed: Long Hair Teddybear
Owner: Sarah Michalak
-  16. Pet Name: Riley
Breed: Shiba Inu
Owner: Madelyn Oliver
-  17. Pet Name: Cassie
Breed: Yellow Lab
Owner: Zak & Noah Witus
-  18. Pet Name: Obi
Breed: Cabishon
Owners: Daniella Silver
-  19. Pet Name: Sneakers
Owner: Jake & Marlee Rothman
-  20. Pet Name: Lizzie
Breed: Maltipoo
Owner: Savannah Ison



The pets were ranked by a small focus group. Only the first 20 pets that were entered were ranked

12 THE SPECTATOR

Freaky Friday: 2012, the year of the 13s

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor

Nearly 17-21 million people are affected by paraskevidekatriaphobia, the fear of Friday the 13th in the United States according to the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute in Asheville, North Carolina. Every few years there are three Friday the 13ths. This year happens to have three, but what makes it even more special is that they are exactly 13 weeks apart from each other. This has not happened since 1984 and it will not happen again until 2040.

Friday the 13th has only been known to be a day of bad luck since the early 19th century. Many people think that Friday is an unlucky day because of religious reasons. Jesus' crucifixion, Eve offering Adam the forbidden fruit, and the death of Adam and Eve all happened on a Friday. The Great Flood and the Destruction of the Temple of Solomon also happened on a Friday as well.

Many people see the number 13 as a bad luck charm to begin with. Twelve seems to symbolize wholeness whereas 13 is unknown. There are many satisfying things that come in sets of 12 such as the 12 months in a year, hours on a clock, zodiac signs, and eggs in an egg carton. Many abominable things come in sets of 13 like the 13 knots in a noose and the 13 people at the last supper which ended in the death of one of them.

According to the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute \$800-\$900 million is lost every Friday the 13th because of the fear to travel or even go to work. Because of anxiety, people are more likely to get sick or have something bad happen to them.

Although many people believe Friday the 13th is a day of bad luck, there are those few who believe that it is a day of luck. "I don't know why people see it as a day of bad luck. I think it is just like any other day of the week," sophomore Lily Wojta said. April 13 is the last Friday the 13th of this year. Everyone can test out the theory of whether or not it is a day of bad luck for themselves.

For many, Friday the 13th is a day to stay inside their house all day and do nothing to avoid something from happening to them. Few will go out and fear nothing. The pattern in 2012's Friday the 13ths has not happened in a while and will not happen again for many years. For those who suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobia 2040 could not be farther away.



Photo by Zak Witus and edited by Veronica Marchese

Freshman Dakota Dredek is not scared of any superstition. He embraces Friday the 13th with no fear.

EMAGINE

THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE

GREAT FOOD. GREAT FUN.
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!

For Emagine Showtimes and Tickets:
www.Emagine-Entertainment.com
888-319-FILM

Students receive discount with I.D.

STARLANES
WHERE YOU'RE THE STAR
AT EMAGINE ROYAL OAK

Open for Lunch & Dinner daily
Opens 11 a.m. daily!

Open Bowling
Sunday-Thursday 11am-midnight
Friday and Saturday 11am - 1am



FIND US ONLINE!



www.Emagine-Entertainment.com



facebook.com/EmagineTheatres

BHS got Talent

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

After days on end of stressful yet uneventful school, students start to crave some variety. This longing for something new in the lives of high school teenagers can be satisfied by music, but not just any music--the music of students. High school bands and musicians and the hype that surrounds them are seen in movies and read about in books all the time. But where are these musical talents? Where are the people who are looked upon by their peers with such awe and admiration for distracting them from their everyday lives? Here at BHS, these musicians are on the rise.

One particular up and coming band is the group F8, pronounced 'Fate.' The band consists of BHS sophomores Tommy Porter, Patrick Schahfer, Caelin Amin, and University of Detroit Jesuit High School sophomore, Liam Kelly. The band originated at a camp where musically talented kids are assisted in forming bands. The members attended the camp for several years, until this past summer, when they decided to make their band official. Porter plays guitar and is the vocalist, Schahfer plays the drums, Amin plays bass, and Kelly is also on guitar.

Porter and Schahfer said their music style varies. "We play a lot of blues, progressive, and pop rock," the two said.

The band recently put on their first show in band member Caelin Amin's garage. Many attended the performance, enjoying food, socializing, and of course, the music.

"We had a surprisingly good turnout, a lot better than we expected," Porter said laughingly.

F8 said that while the shows themselves do not require much planning in advance, the writing and recording of the music is a long process.

"Recording is the worst; that's the hard part," Porter said. "We'll spend two days straight [in the studio], just recording." Such dedication is a sure

sign of quality music.

Schahfer said that the best part of being in a band is being able to express himself musically. "I've been trying to write music since the 4th grade; finally, it's been successful," he said.

Though the band is in its early stages, they have already drawn quite a bit of attention from fellow BHS students. They recently played at the BHS Variety Show on March 14 and plan on having more shows soon.

Another student who has made public her musical gifts is freshman, Evelyn Dykes. Dykes has been playing the ukulele for two years and also plays the violin, guitar and bass. She can often be spotted playing her ukulele fearlessly for all to hear and see in seemingly odd places around the school, such as art showcases.

About her unique spots to play in, Dykes said, "I just want to get the idea across that people can use music instead of doing destructive things."

Dykes' musical tastes when playing the ukulele include a very wide spectrum. Dykes said her favorite styles range from "weird metal" to pop to classical. Such a repertoire requires one to be quite apt at an instrument, especially with their one that receives so little notice.

"It's hard to find classical pieces for the ukulele, right now I'm working on a Mozart piece," Dykes said. Normally, one might be astounded that classical music, such as Mozart, is even available for the ukulele; but Dykes has taken the extra lengths to find such music and is brave enough to try it.

Those who liven the halls of BHS with their musical abilities should be deeply appreciated. They provide students with a diversion from their every day lives at school. They create opportunities for students to assemble with their friends and listen to their peers play live music, which is rarely experienced these days. These musicians deserve praise and respect for the artistry they color BHS with, and who knows, one day these talented BHS students might be famous.



BEFORE THEIR EYES
REDEMPTION

Albums of March

Barret Hotz '13, Photo Editor

Redemption: Before Their Eyes

Before Their Eyes, a post-hardcore band from Findlay, Ohio, is releasing their new album *Redemption*. The name of the band is taken from the New Testament verse Romans 3:18 that says, "There is no fear of God before their eyes." This band is rather heavy, but there is also a lot of singing, too. In terms of their sound, it is inventive because they use super heavy guitar riffs to make it seem like there is something heavy coming up to keep listeners on their toes. "Lies" is the single off *Redemption* and will be available in stores March 27.



Tuskegee: Lionel Richie

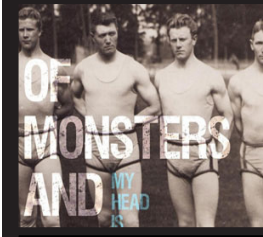
Lionel Richie is an American singer-songwriter, musician, record producer and actor. Richie is a 63-year-old man who is not only still making music, but is pumping out the hits. Richie's new album *Tuskegee* is a pop style album and is the tenth pop album he has made. The single on this album is "Just For You." The album released on March 16. Go grab it at your local album store.

Songs: Rusko

Christopher Mercer, more commonly known as "Rusko," is an English dubstep artist releasing his new album, *Songs*. This album is a hard dubstep genre with super heavy bass kick so listeners are able to rock out. He has made 17 albums in only five years. It is ridiculous to think someone can drop this many albums in five years and still have enough time to be able to play in shows. Rusko is one of the most respected dubstep artists in the world, and he is also a producer of other dubstep artists like A-Trak. This album hits the stores on March 27. Go get it!



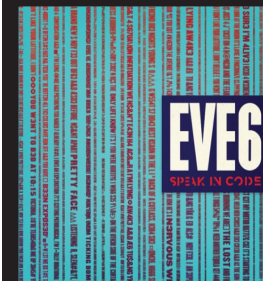
14 THE SPECTATOR

**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, while they are still able to maintain their individuality. "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 song 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 who 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 novel 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

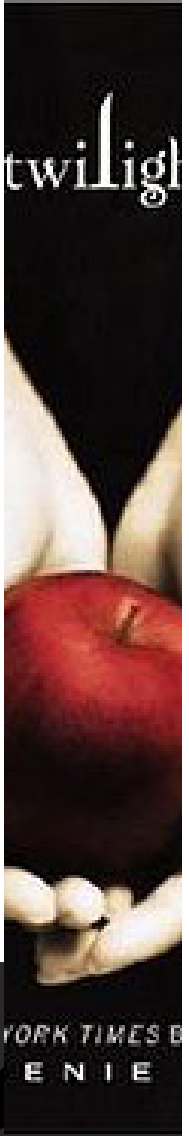
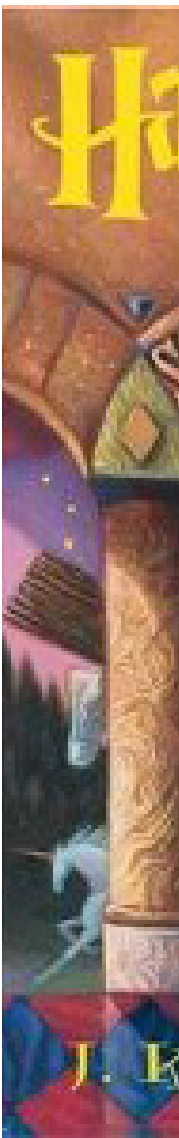
things real teens do, including love, family life, and outside pressures. Like everywhere, BHS has its own fandom community.

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, sometimes understandably, ridiculous. But what is the fixation behind the religious 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

YORK TIMES
ENIE

HITS AND MISSES OF MARCH

HIT: MARCH MADNESS

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Many say that the only part of the NCAA basketball season that matters is March Madness. Regardless of how you think one cannot deny the joy that is incorporated within this month of heightened basketball competition. The fun involved with this tournament goes beyond the Final Four, because all of the teams from mid-major conferences get the chance to play teams in the upper echelon of college basketball. This annual basketball tournament is an exciting event for all basketball fans and hopefully this year it won't disappoint.



HIT: MARCH MADNESS

COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Ever find yourself in constant need of a pen or pencil? If you answered yes then you are in luck, because the yearly source of free writing utensils, useless toys, candy, and of course: college information. The March Madness College fair is a great way for BHS students to learn about college and is also a way for students to receive cool, free stuff.



Sophomore Mason Sitto shows off Berkley's Parking Pass.

MISS: PARKING PASSES

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor

Speaking as an upperclassman who has their driver's license, it was asked of me at the beginning of the year to purchase a \$25 permit to park in the parking lot at BHS. Naturally I blew it off and thought, what is the worse that could happen? To my undying shame, I received a ticket for \$40 for parking without a permit. Enraged, I questioned Principal Mr. Randy Gawel as to why we have these silly little stickers. He said, "To maintain order in the universe." When I interrogated Gawel as to what would happen without them, he responded, "There would be chaos, accidents, fights. It would be like a mall parking lot on Christmas or Chanukkah." I dispute this. Most people do not have permits anyway, and honestly if we didn't have them no one would notice, except most of us would be \$25 richer. Take away the parking permits, and let me save my money for more important things. If we still have them next year, then I'm starting an Occupy BHS movement.



Sophomores Austin Glass, Kate Patronik, and Stepp Mayes pose as if they were in *This Means War*.

MISS: THIS MEANS WAR

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor

Going into the theatre to watch *This Means War*, I got super excited to see an original movie with two very attractive guys (Chris Pine and Tom Hardy) fight for a woman (Reese Witherspoon) who is oblivious as to who the two men really are. Others have told me that this jam packed action/adventure movie was one of the most original movies they have seen in a long time, but they were wrong. It was stupidly predictable from scene one. Two hot shot CIA agents, who are conveniently best friends that continue to meet the same girl at different times and both unrealistically fall for her. It was funny, I must admit, but the predictability and the cliché moments throughout the entire course of the movie made it not up to snuff.

16 THE SPECTATOR

GRAMMAR GURU: MAKING BHS A BETTER PLACE ONE WORD AT A TIME

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

Using correct grammar is important not only in school – in terms of essays and lab reports, but in many other aspects of life, both written and spoken. Implementing the use of correct grammar could be used to impress people outside of school. In English 10, sophomores learn about commonly confused words, however people still do not know the difference. Here are some of those commonly confused words that can help you look more intelligent in the future.



YOUR VS YOU'RE:

The important distinction between 'your' and 'you're' is knowing the difference between knowing your sh*t and knowing you're sh*t. 'Your' is possessive and 'you're' is a contraction for you are. It is really not that hard to remember. Are people really too lazy to determine the difference, or do people really just not know?

TO, TOO, AND TWO:

You are going 'to' someplace, or you are going somewhere 'too', as in also. Two, which should be obvious, is the number. I realize that the word having one extra "o" could be a bit confusing, but to help you remember the rule of to vs. too is that the extra "o" can be remembered as going along with the rest of word.

OXFORD COMMA:

The serial comma, commonly known as the Oxford comma, is often overlooked in writing. The oxford comma is often standard in non-journalistic writing, which follows the Chicago Manual of Style, which is a style guide for American English writing. However, journalists do not follow the Oxford comma, because it is not the AP (Advanced Press) style. Also, I am sure people, such as fellow staff members Mitchell Hart and Aaron Cohen would appreciate the Oxford comma in the picture to the right.

THEN VS THAN:

This is a common mistake seen everywhere. 'Then' is used when describing when events take place, while 'than' is used in comparisons. The best example I have ever seen on Facebook of all places is: "I'd rather jump out a window than take my finals tomorrow," posted by an anonymous student. It is rather depressing that this student wants to jump out a window and then take their finals; those two things sound like a series of unfortunate events. Using 'than' would have made much more sense, because

the student would rather jump out a window instead of taking their finals, which is still extreme.

THEIR, THERE, AND THEY'RE

A quick lesson: 'their' is possessive, 'there' refers to a place or used with a pronoun and helping verb (i.e "there are many reasons to use correct grammar"), and 'they're' is the contraction of "they are."

EFFECT VS AFFECT:

A majority of the time 'effect' is a noun while 'affect' is a verb. To help you remember the way to use them, you can replace affect with a verb – to check if it was used correctly. An example is: "Mitchell was affected by Aaron" replaced by "Mitchell was eaten by Aaron." It obviously makes sense so affect is used correctly in the sentence.

BONUS: LITERALLY VS FIGURATIVELY:

"I'm literally dying of embarrassment right now." Oh, you are? I bet that you are not. "Literally" is meant to mean something is actually happening, countless times I hear people in the hall saying they are "literally dying" or "literally about to kill themselves over their homework," when in reality they are not about to do either. "Literally" means what you are saying is completely true – no metaphors or analogies. All other expressions one commonly says is figurative.

Remember these helpful tips and hopefully you will not be that student every English teacher is continually frustrated with, or perhaps you will not be the applicant for a job whose letter of intent is put in the pile to not be hired.



We invited the girls, Mitchell and Aaron



We invited the girls, Mitchell, and Aaron.

Photos by Barret Hotz

CONFORMITY AT BHS: ERYBODY BE DA SAME

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

Fads come and go, yet teenagers' attitudes never change. One day it is "cool" to have the latest pair of Lulu-Lemon leggings or Ray-Ban glasses, and the next everyone wants to be a "hipster." In high school, most teens struggle to find their place as they try to explore their interests and expand their horizons. Students try to fit into the mold that others have created. The ever-present popularity contest keeps students second guessing their place in the society these types of students have created. Shaping a student to be liked by others, yet leaving them hopelessly indistinguishable.

Walking through the halls of BHS is like living endlessly on repeat, I see the same things over and over. Tall Hunter boots, North Face jackets and back packs, Vera Bradley wristlets, Beats headphones, Nike tennis shoes; the list goes on and on. These may be "fashionable," but it definitely shows a lack of uniqueness. Understandably, people want nice things, and maybe things that appeal to one, appeal to all, but there comes a time when it all becomes just too much. Too much of anything eventually turns bad.

Conformity is the act of matching attitudes, beliefs and the behaviors of what people perceive as the norm. Here at BHS, people often conform in order to fit into a "cooler" group of people. In my experience, throughout my three years at this

school, I have seen people change from one end of the spectrum to another just to fit in. They have changed how they dress, how they act and even their morals simply to be liked. Popularity is based upon superficiality. The most popular is who can back-



Photo courtesy of Google Images

stab and has the ability to pretend to be nice the longest in order to fool others, acting like someone they are not in order to relate to their peers.

Unwillingness to conform to these social standards carries the risk of rejection. If one decides to preserve their self-disregarding societal "norms" they can be considered an

outcast. Things such as wearing different kinds of clothing, acting in a way not normally accepted or quite plainly being different can put a target onto one's back leaving them subject to cruelty and negative responses.

One who is able to be themselves even with the constant need to fit in is admirable. The pressures are unavoidable, and resisting them is hard. Students are practically forced to try to be the same as everyone else simply in order to have an enjoyable high school experience. Individuality is what makes life interesting. "Being different than other people is cool. Everyone shouldn't be the same," sophomore Montez Van said. Being unique is a virtue, one everyone should embrace.

BHS is filled with so many different types of people, with so many different interests, yet we are plagued with a need to all be the same. We are all taught by one another to conform to each other. To make friends, you need to be identical to those around you; liking the same things, doing the same things, matching in every sense. BHS needs to stop rejecting differences and instead embrace them. We are not going to be here forever, and trust me, the rest of the world does not want hundreds of indistinguishable Berkley students.

MTV: BRING BACK THE MUSIC!!!

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

MTV stands for Music Television and in the early 1980s its programming represented their title. The original purpose of the channel was to play the most popular music videos guided by video jockeys or VJ's.

The impact that MTV had on the music industry and pop culture, and still today paved the way for many other music channels that are available now (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 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 do not miss loose morals and brief nudity. Without the help of MTV, we may have never gotten the same exposure to music that we have today. Bring the music back.

EVOLUTION OF MTV



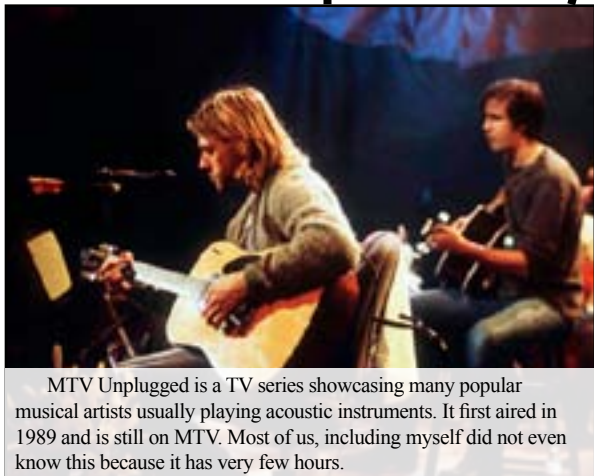
On August 1, 1981 MTV launched "Ladies and gentlemen, rock and roll," spoken by John Lack, and played over footage of the first Space Shuttle launch countdown of Columbia and of the launch of Apollo 11.



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.



16 & Pregnant, classy I know, 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".



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. Most of us, including myself did not even know this because it has very few hours.



Jersey Shore first aired in 2009. This show is so tasteless i cannot even explain it to you. Go home and watch an episode if you have not already.



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

18 THE SPECTATOR

Hockey team exceeds expectations

Jake Rothman '14, Buisness Manager and James Demery '13, Opinion Editor

The BHS varsity hockey team had a remarkable season this year. They have a record of 22-3-2. They won their first two district playoff games but were unfortunately eliminated by Orchard Lake St. Mary's in their third postseason match up. This year's accomplishments make the current group of Bears the first in Berkley history to win 20 total games and the first to win two playoff games.

The team is led by a strong core of seniors who have kept the team together through their vast success. The key to this success comes from various places among the thriving team.

An important aspect for the team is the plethora of senior leadership currently skating for them. Sophomore forward Curtis Carne credits those seven experienced seniors with keeping the team organized and leading the rest of the team by an example. Senior co-captain Bradley Zucker believes the combination of committed young players and strong senior leaders has kept the team's mentality set on winning. On the topic of senior leaders, Zucker thinks it's important that "the younger players have had leaders they can respect."

The knowledge of players' roles on the team has contributed to the team's success. Zucker said, "Everyone has made sure to understand their own role on the team."

Coming into the season, the team had high expectations. They wanted to win a league title and do well in the postseason; the team has successfully done both of those things this year.

Zucker believes a key to this success is the lack of conflict within the team. He said, "Everyone wants to win and nobody will get in the way of that." Zucker admits that all players on the team are not necessarily friends off the ice, but when it comes to each game on the ice, everyone understands the common goal.

To reach their high aspirations, the team had to put in a lot of dedication and hard work on and off the ice. Carne said "Entering this year, we needed to work on reducing the frequency of our odd man situations." Carne believes that the Bears have vastly improved on their discipline from last year and therefore greatly reduced their time in the penalty box.

However disappointing the ending of the season was, the team had one of the best seasons in BHS school sports' history. They have a lot to build on for next year, and expectations will continue to be high for the BHS varsity hockey team.



Photo by Barrett Hanz

Skating team spins to victory

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

Like most students at BHS, one might be shocked to find out the overabundance of sports or clubs that are undervalued. With over 21 different sport team and a countless number of clubs at BHS, one can understand why people sometimes overlook some of these activities. The girls' figure skating team is ranked number one in the district and has the most points in the state and was their league and division champions.

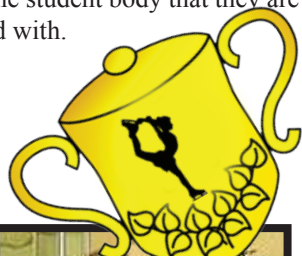
On March 25, the team will be traveling to Traverse City for states where they hope to keep up the tremendous season they have had thus far. With only six members including freshman Rachel Czapp, freshman Kaitlin Trimpe, sophomore Mackenzie Lam, sophomore Christine Rysenga, sophomore Kiauna Sydanmaa and senior Meghan Steingold on the team, competing was somewhat difficult.

As the season progressed it turned out only four were able to compete at the last competition on March 4. Steingold was out with a sprained ankle and Trimpe was out with a hurt back.

At competitions, teams are required to perform at least 12 tricks incorporated into three different categories: jumps, spins and moves. Czapp and Lam take care of the jumps, Lam and Steingold handle the spins and Rysenga and Sydanmaa are able to complete all of the fancy moves. With

only four skaters able to skate, at least every skater has to take three of these skills or tricks. Although it seems like a tall order, sophomore skater Mackenzie Lam is up to the challenge. "We all work so hard and every time it comes to competing we give it our all and the hard work always pays off, I'm so proud of my team," Lam said.

Even though the skating team is one of, if not the smallest team Berkley has ever had, the girls will never stop fighting and show the student body that they are a true force to be reckoned with.



The skating team gathers together for a team picture before entering the rink for some ice time.

Photo courtesy of Meghan Steingold

Time flies when playing sports

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor

Being athletic not only requires one to be fit and talented, but also a sacrifice of precious time. Athletes are committed to their team and spend a large amount of hours practicing for their beloved sport. This may be beneficial to the team, but for the player it can be harmful because they have used up their time to do homework.

Playing a sport for BHS means having to have practice if not every day, than almost every day. Each practice could be two hours or more. Practice can be fun and necessary, but after is when the athlete realizes the lack of time left that night. Many teachers assign homework every night, and for those who play a sport, finding the time to do it can be a problem.

When signing up for a sport, one is recognizing that it is their responsibility to find the time for their homework. "You have to try and manage your time wisely and make a balance between school and sports," JV soccer player sophomore Kirby Morell said. "If there is time at the end of class to do homework, instead of talking to your friends, do your homework." Since practice goes late many nights, television cannot be watched before homework. "I find time before or after practice. I set my priorities straight. School comes first," JV soccer player sophomore Sam Glazer said.

Practices may take up a lot of time, but compared to a game, it seems like nothing. With away games, there is also the driving time that takes up time for important homework. Whether the team is taking a bus or carpooling there is still a drive in order to get to and from the game. When there are games, one's whole night is practically taken. In order for the athlete to get their homework done, they must stay up late or do it on the bus.

The crunch to find time to do homework while playing a sport teaches the player the vital lesson of how to manage their time wisely. This lesson will be helpful throughout the rest of life. It may be hard to find time to do homework while playing a sport, but the lesson is well worth the effort. For athletes, it is hard to maintain good grades due to time constraints during sports seasons, but those who do are the real winners.



Passion makes perfect

Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

On Feb. 16, my father and I walked into Joe Louis Arena just like we had dozens of times before. But this time, rather than climbing the massive staircase that resembled a concrete Everest in my youth, we quietly entered a small, back entrance where we waited for the day's activities to commence. Unlike times before, we would not be watching the Detroit Red Wings square off against another NHL team. This was the Red Wings' High School Press Day, and I was preparing to experience firsthand a day in the life of a sports media journalist.

Going into the event, I was uncertain as to how I would compile my experiences into an article. I had to remind myself that may not be terribly interested in my personal experience; they would want insights into the players, coaches, or management. As the day went progressed, however, and interviews were conducted with General Manager Ken Holland, Head Coach Mike Babcock, and players Todd Bertuzzi, Dan Cleary, and Valterri Fillpula, it became clear that the overarching message I would take away from this event would not be the state of the team or information regarding future trade possibilities. The theme would not even be purely about the team. My father has always said that "sports are the ultimate metaphor for life," and what I learned from my experience with the Red Wings organization, is that he could not be more right.

The Red Wings are universally considered to be one of the most successful organizations in the history of professional sports. If you are a high school student, the team sporting the "winged wheel" on its jersey has qualified for the Stanley Cup Playoffs in every year that you have been alive (and then some). Eleven Stanley Cups and twenty consecutive playoff births prove that the team has stood the test of time. By any measure, the wings are astoundingly successful.

What I became increasingly curious about as the day went on is: *why?* Any professional athlete will tell you that talent alone is not enough to achieve greatness. The Wings have been fortunate to dress some of the finest payers the game has ever seen, but the league's talent has not been

exclusive to Detroit.

Why is it that the Wings contend for a championship every single year? That is the question I set out to answer over the course of the day. My findings remained remarkably consistent throughout each interview. The common denominator: passion. Passion breeds success, both in life, and in sports, and the Detroit Red Wings are living proof.

At the heart of every sports organization is an individual responsible for putting together the pieces of a championship team. Very few, if any, have done so as successfully as Red Wings General Manager, Ken Holland. Since taking over in 1997, the Red Wings have won more games than any other team in the NHL, and in the process, have bagged four Stanley Cups, four Presidents' Trophies, 10 Central Division titles, and five regular season Western Conference titles. It seems as though magic must have been involved in the compilation of Ken Holland's superb résumé, but when asked how he has managed to put together such an historic team, he replied simply, "I wake up and love going to work every day." Holland insists that his passion for the game, the city of Detroit, and the team have been the determining factors in his success as the Red Wings' GM. "Maybe in a few years I'll be sitting in an old rocking chair at my lake house in British Columbia, but right now I love what I'm doing."

Without a doubt, the most memorable part of my Press Day experience was watching the Red Wings practice for the next day's game, where they would fight to continue a 21 home game win streak. Just as exciting as watching Pavel Datsyuk play keep-away with teammate Johan Franzen, however, was watching Head Coach, Mike Babcock conduct a practice. One cannot imagine a man more intense, more focused than Mike Babcock. While other coaches joke and converse with their players, Babcock was stone. Though he spoke little, I could feel the weight of his presence through the glass separating me from the ice.

During our press conference, Babcock attributed his team's success to his passion for hard work. Constantly, he expressed the direct correlation between hard work and achievement. "I believe that work ethic comes first, structure,



All Photos courtesy of Google Images

meaning the way we play our game, comes second, and skill comes out as a result of the first two. There are a bunch of people who are a lot smarter than I am but they didn't want to work as hard." Boasting future hall of famers like Pavel Datsyuk and Nick Lidstrom, skill is not something the Red Wings lack, but Babcock insisted that, without hard work and passion for the game, it would not matter.

The press conference was brief – only 15 minutes or so – but the way Babcock ended the interview was unforgettable. As the room applauded and thanked him for his time, he rose to leave, but then thought better of it. He picked the microphone up from the table and decided to leave us with these last words: "Your job in this life is to find something you love to do. Find what you love, and then make sure you love the job, not just the title. You're not supposed to know what you want to do when you're still in high school. Heck! I'm forty-eight and I'm still figuring it out. I wish you all the best of luck."

The message was clear. Above all, success results from will; from desire; from passion. As I left Joe Louis Arena, I began thinking about how I would write this article. I was concerned with how my work would be perceived by others and if they would understand the message I was trying to convey. Then I remembered what Coach Babcock had said earlier. "Do what *you* love." Thus, this article was written.

20 THE SPECTATOR

ALL ABOARD THE S.S. SENIORITIS:

THE BEST WAY TO SPEND SENIOR YEAR

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

Do you excel in the art of procrastination? Do you think TV is more important than school? Are you missing class more than the kids on the side of a milk carton? If you have answered yes to any of these questions then we know the perfect spring break destination for you. Ladies and gentleman welcome to the best luxury cruise ship available to high school seniors. This is not a normal boat that sails to the Bahamas or Cancun, where teens can let loose and throwback some daiquiris (virgin, of course) by the pool while a servant named Esteban serves up a tropical panini on a solid gold plate. This is the S.S. Senioritis, where we provide the means for a lazy, relaxed experience filled with falling grades and rising body mass indexes. No one else in the industry provides the perfect combination of a nonchalant attitude with a lackadaisical environment. We have a specially trained crew prepared to provide sleeping pills and snacks so you can fully experience the beautiful wonders that Senioritis has to offer. Welcome aboard and feel free to put off all work so you can create the world's largest butt imprint in your couch and fall asleep with a plate of nachos on your lap, and a basin of drool formed on your chest.

The feature for our cruise is our wide range of accommodations that result in plummeting grades. Whether it be notebooks filled with doodles of an alien fighting a werewolf instead of notes or melting your brain into a smoothie watching countless hours of Storage Wars instead of completing your homework. We guarantee that you will no longer have the desire to achieve high scholarly awards, but rather to advance ranks in Call of Duty. Weekdays are no longer designated for schoolwork, but instead we offer wildly intense ping pong tournaments. If you join us on this adventure then we will be sure to provide bedpans so the only thing that has to move is your bowels. There is no longer a restriction for when and where you can fall asleep because each guest will have a designated tempur-pedic neck pillow to promote sleep in literally any position and any location. It is accommodations like these that helped catapult Senioritis into the phenomenon that it is today.

Let's face it seniors. You have worked hard enough for the past three-and-a-half years and deserve to spend the rest of your time at BHS in a relaxed state of mind. If you join our cruise, not only is homework an activity of the past but we also eliminated school work. Professional artists were hired to paint on lifelike eyeballs on your eyelids in order to promote sleep during all classes. We also had a team of scientists create a microchip that can be planted into your brain to create the sounds of oceans crashing on a sandy beach, or the beautiful nature sounds of the forest so you can constantly be in a peaceful mood. It is tools like these that we provide in order to help you lower your grade point average and eliminate any sort of productivity in your daily routine.

Some naysayers of the Senioritis system claim things like "responsibility" or "self-motivation" are the ways to live no matter what. They claim that you should always throw your entire self into whatever you are doing in order to experience life to its fullest potential. However, do those look like happy people? I think hippies look happier than business executives. Wouldn't you rather spend your time building thumb strength through Xbox exercise than to study for an upcoming test than actually taking the time to workout? Sure this lazy decision may come back and bite you in the backside, but let your future self deal with those problems. You don't want to look back on your time spent in high school and think that you worked so hard that you become an uptight suburban who calls in noise complaints. The moral of the story is either hop aboard the Senioritis ship, or die as a lonely, uptight old person whose only friends are the staff at the 4 p.m. Denny's dinner buffet.

**FOLLOW ME AS I
LEAD YOU TO THE
GLORY AND LAZINESS
THAT SENIORITIS
ENTAILS. WITH MY
TEACHINGS, YOUR
SLACKING ABILITIES
WILL REACH AN ALL
TIME HIGH.**



Photo courtesy of Google Images, edited
by Danny Bakst

SOMETHING ROTTEN

IN THE STATE OF EDUCATION

Zak Witus '12, Co-Editor-in-Chief

The foundation of a students' education lies in them having faith in the academic system. Like a Christian's faith in a crooked church (not implying churches are inherently corrupt) will lead to their own corruption, so has our modern education system tainted its students. This rottenness, this disgustingly profound aspect of education is a widespread over-emphasis on testing. If the oligarchs of education wish students, their subjects, to keep their faith in the system, then changes must be made.

As a result of the education authorities setting incentives towards grades, students have developed a bad habit of learning for the sake of a decent test score, not for the education. GPAs, often gilded, superficial measurements meant to represent students' actual learning, are largely constituted by tests. Undergraduate college admissions offices place a ridiculously high importance on GPA in deciding whether or not to admit any given applicant. This advocates a way of learning dedicated to receiving a decent test grade, not necessarily a quality education.

A key issue with educating towards tests comes from the assessment limitations of the popular multiple-choice testing format (i.e. Scantrons). The high-tech and highly convenient Scantron assessment is used constantly at BHS, and almost unanimously for final exams. This standardized testing style evaluates students' only on the most basic levels in Bloom's taxonomy of learning: remembering, comprehending, and applying, or, in other words, memorizing, recognizing, and using information. Seldom are test questions designed to check students abilities to analyze, synthesize, not to mention be creative with their given information because testing for these higher levels of learning, requires critical, individualized grading that no one has the time for. Learning is a complex and subjective experience; when it gets evaluated with simplified and standardized methods, valuable learning skills are overlooked. And when the tests are reductive and remedial, students' learning methods adapt for the worse.

Today it is not only standardized testing that's popular, but standardized teaching on a grander scale. College Board requirements, core curriculum guidelines, and standardized testing companies have industrialized teaching, requiring and obligating teaching methods, namely through overstating the importance of assessments. Standardized assessment is advantageous to testers largely because it allows for knowledge of a broad range of material to be assessed and then quickly scored by grading machines. Due to serious time constraints and the volume of the material, more sophisticated and comprehensive methods of assessment are far more difficult for teachers to manage, and, especially during final exam weeks, decidedly impractical. Obviously tests are important tools for building an education, but grandiose value they're given, proven by most classes' grading structures, has mutated students' incentives, and distracted educational focus from the pursuit of knowledge in its own right. Teachers cannot alone be blamed for the shortcomings in students' education, because they are often subordinates to a system like their students. Today there are simply aspects of the curriculum out of the control of the individual teacher.

In many students' studies the question becomes, "What do I need to know for the test?" instead of, "How can I gain more insightful understanding?" The answer to the latter is a simple one: ask better questions. As for the former, which exemplifies some students' less constructivist approach to academics, students merely need to pose it to their teachers, who are usually prepared with disgustingly specific responses.

Students, particularly those who obsess over their grades while also remaining stubborn and lazy, insist on having their schoolwork served to them in bite-size portions, so as not to challenge their intellectual metabolisms. Unfortunately, many teachers, mindful of their professional obligations, are more than willing to enable their students' apathetic, yet obsessive learning practices. Utilizing such learning utensils as study guides, answer keys, and most especially review sessions, teachers all around the nation fill their students' minds up, hand them a Scantron, then step back, applauding as they regurgitate some knowledge that will earn them a decent score. This an epidemic, which has punched our nation's youth in their cerebral jejunums, is called intellectual bulimia. Just like actual bulimia, less, but admittedly some, nourishment is absorbed by the body/brain.

While I could go on for pages about how royally messed up the system has become, we the people, or in this case, we the students, are the one's with the greatest power to act. Sure the standardized system encourages reductive learning, and clearly it has warped the education system's incentives from undergraduate admissions officers to teachers to the individual students, but the lower learning, the kind that gets assessed far more often, is a basis for types like analysis, synthesis, and creativeness, meaning that as long as a student practices learning to their greatest abilities they will still be able to give the elementary answers, which their Scantron exams are focused on. To be satisfied with just blaming the system, no matter how corrupt, is not the fitting response. The educational reformation must begin with those to whom education is directed. Students remain the most powerful authority in their own education. If they wish to see it grow and develop, they must take responsibility for their education, and thus all the flaws in it. We the students must act.