

SPECTATOR

May 2014
Senior Edition

CLASS OF 2014: the goodbye issue



Puzzing off to infinity
and beyond

Volume LXV, Issue VIII Berkley High School

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An ever-changing world

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Incoming Editor-in-Chief

Every morning, the news pops onto our televisions and speaks about the phenomenon of some celebrity getting arrested or having a mental breakdown. However, the truly ridiculous part about this scenario is the simple fact that the media has transformed from a network that spread information into a living, breathing gossip column. If you take a chance to reflect back on the past few months and the topics that are discussed on television and news channels, it all seems to revolve around exaggerated rumors about celebrities we worship. The sad truth is that this is our attempt at escaping reality. Perhaps you may remember a lesson from U.S. History where our teachers spoke about the Great Depression. Back in the 1930s, the only way to flee from the harsh reality of a person's life was to simply go to the cinema and watch a film. It seems that since the world has changed vastly over the past 80 years, one might assume that coping methods to deal with the grim reality may have shifted as well. However, blurring the line between dream and truth remains the only technique that is used by mass media.

Instead of focusing on important events that impact people globally, we tend to dwell on whether or not two celebrities are in a relationship. There are shows like *E! News* that are dedicated to keeping tabs on rumors, relationship statuses, and which celebrity has overdosed. Think about it: we idolize these people who are human beings just like us. It may seem cliché, but the only difference between us and them, is the spotlight. A perfect example is Miley Cyrus. Would she actually be acting out like this if it were not for paparazzi and all eyes being on her 24/7? Probably not. The coverage of newspapers and television channels should include events that are actually significant rather than having tabloids plastered all over news stands remarking how much weight Jessica Simpson has lost. Remember the Mt. Everest avalanche that resulted in 16 deaths and was known as the most catastrophic tragedy to occur on any mountain? I didn't think so. Simply, we are implementing the same

tactic of distracting people from the harsh reality of this world. These "news" shows that are solely devoted to discussing the Hollywood lifestyle, reveal how uninterested we are in the real world. As my parents used to tell me, "many people would rather act like ostriches. It is easier to stick your head in the sand and avoid your problems rather than facing them."

By definition, news is newly received or noteworthy information, especially about recent or important events. Notice how many of the reports that we hear about have absolutely nothing to do with "noteworthy information" or "important events." At all. Personally, a news report should not be biased unless the opinion is needed to reinforce a specific issue. However, it is rare that there is no bias at all in any media coverage (lately). In fact, most of the "news" that is on television is not actually notable in any way. In our society, it appears to be necessary to boast about celebrities, movie premieres, and music releases rather than discuss politics, war, and natural disasters. As a human race, we all should strive to evolve in order to advance our society. However, are we actually moving forward, or are we stuck in a standstill and slowly creeping our way back into the past?


It is an ever changing world out there, and it is not slowing down any time soon. So, the issue at hand is whether or not we are going to keep covering up the truth about our world because we are too afraid of the effect that it will have. Perhaps we will continue down this similar path of lying to ourselves and creating a façade to ensure our happiness. Or, we could completely transform the game. Many people forget to remember that we all have the ability to evoke change. It may seem that we are all stuck in this society that will never budge to anything unfamiliar, but we actually have more power than we think. As Winnie the Pooh once said, "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

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The *Spectator* Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: In the first issue next year, junior Robby Flannery will be hidden within these pages. Thank you all for reading the paper and participating in this year's scavenger hunts of people.



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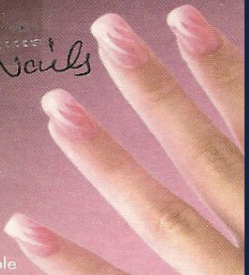
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Sept. 16- Oct.9 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00 *(No class 9/24 & 9/25, instead class M 9/22 & 10/6)	October 14- 16 (T W TH) 5:00-7:00
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VALEDICTORIAN

MARLA KRASNICK



Number one. Numero uno. There can only be a single person named the valedictorian of the senior class, and that person's name is Marla Krasnick. Over the past four years of her education, Krasnick has exhibited the most commitment and dedication to learning. The key to her unparalleled 4.32 GPA is dividing the work and conquering it in an organized and timely fashion. Waking up as early as 4:30 a.m. to finish her homework exemplifies the dedication required to be awarded with such a prestigious honor. Managing nine AP classes throughout her time at BHS was strenuous for Krasnick, but she aided her success by breaking up the studying so it was not all saved for one sitting.

She participated in a range of activities from varsity tennis to volunteering at Friendship

Circle to National Honor Society. These engaging activities distracted her from the difficult courses she took. She said, "I picked hard classes, like honors and AP, to challenge myself, but I made sure I wasn't taking them just for a weighted grade. I took classes that I was interested in so I could stay motivated to study and do well." Krasnick was interested in science courses because she wants to pursue a career in the health sciences in college. Being the valedictorian of the class means so much more for Krasnick than just the title of highest GPA; she is ecstatic to be able to represent the entire class with her much anticipated speech at graduation. Next year, Krasnick will be heading down south to New Orleans to attend Tulane University.

SALUTATORIAN

IAN MILLER



After a lot of hard work and countless hours spent studying, Ian Miller has earned the title of this year's salutatorian. "It's nice to see all my effort and hard work has come to something," Miller said.

Since the moment he started out here at BHS, Miller has been working hard to get the tip-top grades that allowed him to be BHS's salutatorian. "I've always been a strong student and the good foundation my parents have given me has helped out too," he continued.

Sister and close friend of Ian, Shelby Miller, commented on how proud of her brother she was. She said, "I'm very proud of his accomplishments and am excited to see where his future takes him."

After reflecting on his last four years at BHS, Miller said, "My favorite memory was just being able to be involved in everything from leadership to cross country."

Miller is grateful to his parents and sister for always supporting him with his school work throughout the years.

He will continue to succeed in both school and fun as he prepares for his time at Drake University in Iowa.

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

OLIVIA WOOD



What does it mean to be successful? The official definition is: a person that achieves desired aims or attains prosperity. What this definition fails to capture, however, is the hard work required to reach that success. Olivia Wood has undoubtedly put forth the level of effort needed to succeed. She gained leadership positions starting her junior year—English Committee Chair in NHS, Vice president of Environmental club, Co-Historian of Tri-M, and Secretary of Crossfire club. Her senior year was marked by advancement in these positions; she became president of both NHS and Environmental club. On top of being a great leader, Olivia has earned an impressive 4.2 GPA and taken a host of very difficult classes like Anatomy and Project Advance

Olivia's path of success has lasted all four years, but the motivation to work hard started much earlier. "I've been motivated to do well since middle school. I always tried to do my best, and I carried that on in high school and that motivation pushed me to try to succeed." Being a successful person is hard work although it brings great memories along with it. Among Olivia's fond memories include winning the NHS presidentship position and coordinating volunteer events successfully.

In the future, Olivia will undoubtedly continue on her path to success. She will be attending the University of Michigan Residential College in the fall. Her high school successes that got her into college will then play their part in ensuring her future prosperity.

GRANT FABER



Grant Faber is the first student in BHS history to take AP Calculus BC and Calculus 3 concurrently. In the fall, he will be attending University of Michigan with a focus in Financial Mathematics. Last year, Faber was awarded the Rensselaer Medal, an award given to one junior in a school who excels in math and science.

To set himself up for success beyond high school, he has taken AP classes whenever possible. While those AP classes have been valuable, he described Mr. Lenny Waldman's class, Experiential Education, as the class that has prepared him the most for life beyond high school. He received a 35 on the ACT, with the highest score possible being a 36.

"[Faber] is the most insightful, highly driven, forward thinking student I have had the pleasure of working with in 16 years; Grant Faber will rule the world one day," Mr. Goldberg said.

But above all, more important to him than his grades or classes, is his happiness. "I like to be happy. My happiness in my largest concern," Faber said. Keeping with that idea, his plans beyond high school are focused around his happiness. And financial mathematics.

MOST UNFORGETTABLE

SUMMER CALHOUN



She started off as a shy gal, but over the years she has grown into the outgoing individual she is known to be today. Summer Calhoun has been the leader in this category since her sophomore year. “This title makes me feel like somebody,” Calhoun said.

You could ask anyone in BHS, staff or student, and they would, without a doubt, know who Summer is. “I love all of my fans, every one of them,” Calhoun said. She may love them all, but every star has their favorites even the all-loving Summer herself. According to Summer, junior Jason Wingate is her “actual bae.” Her main “homie” in the BHS staff department is the lovely Ms. Cameron, who gave Summer her very own catch phrase, “Come on summertime.”

No one, Summer included, will ever forget the Snowcoming where Summer performed one

of her most unforgettable acts, using what her mama gave her while dancing with sophomore Ryan Austin. Sadly, the never ending season of Summer is coming to a close. She is moving out to the Kalamazoo area to study event planning and the culinary arts at a local community college. Without the presence of Summer next year who knows how the returning BHS students shall go on.

DANIEL AGBAY



As you walk down the BHS hallways, students feel comfortable and safe. They think it has always been this safe in the hallways, but only a few will remember the dark days at the school, when violence and crime were common in the hallways. Four years ago, a silent hero emerged from the ashes and restored BHS to its current glory. His name is Daniel Agbay, more commonly known as BatDan.

As he prepares to embark on his crime fighting journey in college, the *Spectator* got to interview BatDan one last time. “I punch people when they do bad things,” BatDan said, describing his crime fighting strategy. Although every day of saving Berkley is unforgettable for BatDan, he says “fighting crime” during this year’s spring break in Daytona Beach, Florida was his favorite

high school memory. BatDan also shared his most recent clash with crime. “I was sitting in the math class, duty called, and I had my [bat] mask and was ready to go. I fought the injustice and saved the class and the day,” BatDan said. He also plans to continue fighting crime at Michigan State University. “Justice never sleeps, neither do I,” BatDan said. As the dark knight leaves, the fate of BHS is uncertain. Will the criminals once again rule the hallways? Will violence once again infiltrate the school? BatDan says he will not allow it. “It might go downhill, but I will be back and restore order when it is needed,” BatDan reassured the BHS faithful. BatDan’s honorable dedication to preserving peace at BHS makes him the most unforgettable senior in the hearts of the appreciative students.

MOST SPIRITED

REVA MCDOWELL



There are many aspects of BHS that set this impeccable school apart from the average high school. One of these factors includes the immense amount of spirit that is dispersed throughout the entire student body. Without Reva McDowell, there would not be nearly as much vigor that spreads throughout the BHS population. McDowell was chosen as the emcee, along with senior Alexander Rawlik, for the Homecoming Pep Assembly in October 2013.

“High school is nothing without the pep assemblies and the football games. It is an amazing feeling to be a part of a group of students and cheer and just go crazy,” McDowell said. “Being the emcee at the homecoming pep assembly was the most amazing experience.” She continued, “You get to be in front of the entire school and make sure everyone is cheering

and having a good time. It is a complete adrenaline rush.”

With the majority of the student body gathering together to cheer on their sports teams, the role of a leader was open for someone with enough “oomph” to rally everyone together in one, harmonious, conglomerate of spirit. This position was filled by none other than McDowell herself. She attended every football game in the wackiest attire, showing her support with her full adherence to the selected theme. Although her last year at BHS has come to a close, her plans for the future include attending Grand Valley State University to study Computer Engineering and cheer on her new sports teams.

ALEX RAWLIK



In a crowd of people cheering, there is always one voice that stands out. This person, during spirit week, can usually be counted on to dress up more than the average student. Alex Rawlik has been known throughout his high school career as being the most spirited when it comes to school events. His enthusiastic reputation even led him to have the honor of tweeting on behalf of the Bearpack account.

Rawlik claims that his favorite memory while being spirited was the USA-themed football game at the beginning of the school year. He loved the extremely spirited atmosphere at the game. Although there was seeming less cheering from the student section this year, it did not impact Rawlik’s peppy ways.

As the most enthusiastic senior in the student section at all of the sporting events, he never failed to dress to the theme, such as “wacky tacky.” Even though being spirited may mean something different to each individual, Rawlik follows the definition of what it means to him. “[School spirit] means having pride in your school, [yourself] and your friends and showing it with loud noise and energy,” Rawlik said. It has become evident to the rest of school that this enthusiasm defines Rawlik, and his eccentric personality the past four year at BHS and his next four years at University of Michigan.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

JACOB BEHRMANN



If you have ever met Jacob “the Behr” Behrmann then you know that he is a very unique and special individual. When Behrmann walks into a room, it is hard not to notice his presence as he is not afraid to express any of his opinions. Behrmann’s one-of-a-kind personality is what got him into power as the junior class president last school year.

Now as senior class president, “the Behr” has experienced little adversity entering the Student Leadership classroom, immediately being put into a leadership position. This year, being the senior class’ representation of the grade, he is in charge of voicing the seniors’ ideas, as well as planning projects, events, and other cool activities which included the new mural in the athletic hallway.

Over the last two years, Behrmann has helped many Student Leadership events be as fun as possible, but they were not all easy to arrange. The president’s most prized achievement and moment in Student Leadership was planning prom last year. He explained, “Seeing our vision come to life and everyone having such a great time on prom night really made me feel proud of what we were able to accomplish.”

Behrmann has come a long way since his freshman year, in part because of his experiences in Student Leadership. He has gone from a newbie at BHS to the senior class president—a pretty substantial feat. This rise has helped Behrmann thrive in representing the seniors as well as the student body as a whole. Next year Behrmann will be taking his leadership skills to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan.

GABE GEDDA-SHAHEEN



Being the student body president is the most powerful and prestigious title a high school student can obtain. Gabe Gedda-Shaheen possesses the name, and he certainly deserved it. Gedda-Shaheen has been in Student Leadership since his sophomore year.

As a sophomore Gedda-Shaheen was naturally nervous entering a class full of upperclassmen, but his sister and Alex Fahoom, a previous leader in Student Leadership, showed him the ropes. Gedda-Shaheen also had great times during his first year. His favorite memory from his three years in Student Leadership came during his first year. He explained, “Sophomore year when just the sophomores put on [the] first event, teacher appreciation week and charity week; we got to know each other better.”

The next year, as a junior, Gedda-Shaheen had his proudest moment in Student Leadership planning prom. He said, “Going into [prom] we did not think it would go particularly well, but it did.” Prom is the biggest event that Student Leadership puts on so when it is successful it you are obviously proud of it.

These instances have led to Gedda-Shaheen being an outstanding representation of the BHS student body, and he will be missed as he leaves to attend Wayne State University in the fall.

CLASS CLOWN

SAM SILVERSTEIN



Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the senior issue of the *Spectator*. May I introduce to you the wickedly talented and unbelievably funny, Sam Silverstein. This juggling funny man has won over the hearts of everyone he has come into contact with. Whether it is playing with dogs at sporting events or performing at the Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, Silverstein has a bright comedic future ahead of him. When he is not juggling, you can find him flirting his way to As with all of his teachers.

Through being funny and always having the right thing to say, this boy, no, man, has earned his rightful place on this page as the 2014 Class Clown. “I would like to thank Ms. Spear for being the ghost writer of all my comedic material,” he said. “I’d also like to

thank my juggling pins for helping me with the ladies.”

In the fall, Silverstein will be taking his talents to the Big Apple to try and pursue a comedic career. Sam would like to leave this final gem of wisdom. He said, “When someone dies, no one talks about how great of a student they were. Follow your dream and love every minute of everything you do. I love you.” Cue curtain.

HANNAH MILKE



Hannah Milke is known for always being the one to crack a joke. Always smiling, Milke describes her sense of humor as just plain old funny. Known by her friends for having a humored, carefree attitude about herself, Milke is able to emote extreme confidence.

“Hannah’s funny all the time. You can always count on her to make you laugh,” friend and senior Olivia Wood said. She was really funny as the Bear this year, and when she dressed up as Miley Cyrus at one of the football games. When asked what her teachers thought of her humor, Milke said, “All my teachers appreciate my humor. I cannot think of one that does not.”

Along with being entertaining, Milke also happens to be president of the Club for a Cure. She is also a member of the Environmental Club and has played tennis for all four years of high school. Last year, Milke was awarded as the most improved player on the team.

She will be attending Wayne State University in the fall and is undecided on what she will be studying, but she intends on bringing her humorous personality with her.

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ORCHESTRA

ELIISA STRAND



Senior Eliisa Strand has been playing the violin ever since the fifth grade and was inspired by her aunt whose abilities with the instrument fascinated her as a child. Since, Strand has had an extensive career with the BHS orchestra and with them, has achieved many honors. Currently, she holds the position of concertmaster, or first chair violin, of the Symphony Orchestra, which has allowed her to receive the highest ratings at districts as well as state solo and ensemble for both solo and group performances during all of her four years at BHS.

Besides the achievements Strand has earned within high school, her successes have managed to go far beyond the walls of BHS. This school year, she was invited to perform with the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Orchestra,

compiled of the best instrumentalists in the state. Over the years with the BHS orchestra, Strand has come to bond with all of her fellow musicians and has shared many great times with them like being able to perform with them at Carnegie Hall in New York City during March, this year. In the fall, Strand will be attending Wayne State University's honors college where she plans to study chemistry and music. She says that she will continue her music endeavors into her college career by joining the campus' symphony orchestra. As a farewell to her orchestra family at BHS, Strand has some helpful words of advice: "Enjoy and make the most of your time with the BHS orchestra because it goes by so fast."

BAND

ALLIE ARCHAMBAULT



For eight years Allie Archambault has been a dedicated band member in the last four years she has been a valued part of the BHS marching band. During her time at BHS, she has played the trombone, and over the last three years she has filled the important role of leading the band as their drum major. Archambault could be seen standing in front of the band during pep assemblies and football games. Co-Drum Major Hana Coon said, "Allie is super upbeat and always entertains and lifts the spirits of the entire band."

Of the many innovative things that she has brought to the BHS marching band, having the drum majors do backbends is one of her favorite. She has shared many memories with the band, but the one that

will always stick out was the time when she conducted with her grandpa by her side because it was a rare and special opportunity that she had.

As a contributing factor to the success of the band, she has received a varsity letter for her hard work and dedication over the last four years. She is also the recipient of the Big Ten Award, two years in a row. Allie will be attending Miami University in Oxford, OH at the Farmer School of Business this fall where she does not plan to continue her marching band career.

CHOIR

TOMMY PORTER



Bass singer Tommy Porter has sung songs almost everywhere, ranging from his shower, to the little theater, and to the auditorium, all while amazing people with his voice.

For the past seven years, Porter has valued participating in the Berkley's choir program. "I got interested in choir because I really like music, and I did not want to play in band or orchestra, so choir was what I picked," Porter said.

Porter has received many awards while participating in choir, including high rankings at district, and many more.

Outside of the choir department, Porter has his own band, Great Stone Dragon, with his friends senior Caelin Amin, senior Patrick Schahfer, and senior Harrison Sanders. "My favorite memory was probably just starting a

band; it's a lot of fun," Porter said. Before Great Stone Dragon, he had another band, F8. He played in F8 for two years with senior Liam Kelley, senior Caelin Amin, alumni Tim Dalian, and senior Patrick Schahfer.

As his time in the choir department at BHS comes to an end, he looks forward to attending Wayne State University where he plans to major in music, continuing with his passion for the arts.

DRAMA

EMILY BAILEY



Emily Bailey will undoubtedly be noted as one of the most talented BHS female dramatic arts performers the high school has ever seen. Through the BHS drama department, she has lent her talents to the school's many student productions over the years. Her most favorite show was *The Wiz*, a quirky, twist on the classic story, *The Wizard of Oz*, in which she portrayed the role of Dorothy Gale.

Bailey has achieved much success while with the BHS drama department, but she feels that her greatest reward was the personal confidence she gained through her acting experiences. Once a shy person, Bailey has become fearless due to her work on the BHS stage.

Next year, she will be attending Michigan State University where she plans to pursue a major in both neuroscience and theater. While at MSU, Bailey plans to continue to audition for shows and productions.

The first college production that Bailey will be able to audition for is the musical *Hairspray*, in which she hopes to showcase her talents to the MSU community. With all of her success and great times attributed to the BHS drama department, Bailey has one piece of advice for aspiring BHS actors and actresses. She said "If you want to join drama, enter the program with confidence. Know and trust that you are an amazing performer. A little bit of confidence will take you a long way."

YEARBOOK

MADDIE BAKER



One of the greatest things in high school is being able to look back on all of the memories one has made. With the help of the yearbook staff, Madeleine Baker was able to make this a possibility. By being the Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, Baker was able to capture a year full of moments into 240 pages. Although there were obstacles along the way, the final outcome was a success. With the toll of tiring nights of editing pages, completing deadlines, and leading a class of 23 people, Baker took something ordinary and made it extraordinary.

“Throughout this entire year, the biggest thing I’ve learned is that being a leader doesn’t fall under one universal definition,” Baker said. “Being the editor of yearbook both strengthened the leadership qualities I had and forced me

to recognize the ones I lacked. It showed the true meaning of dedication, and taught me something every day about how to manage a group of individuals all working to turn a vision into something tangible.” She continued, “A lot of people don’t get to see something like that come to fruition, and it was the most rewarding experience in my high school career.” For the fall, she plans on studying kinesiology at Michigan State University.

NEWS/BROADCAST

JEREMY PACZOS



News and Broadcasting is a class where the work of students is seen all around the school on a weekly basis, and a main player behind the camera is Jeremy Paczos. He has been in the class for two years, and he says it has helped him in many ways. He said it “gave him some life skills like working with other people, communicating, and how to manage [his] time.” Paczos continued, “These skills will prepare me for my future.”

Although he only became really interested in the subject his junior year, his hard work and devotion he has to the class has led to many memorable videos throughout his time here. One of his most well-known videos, the Graph City Rap (featuring Stuart Olenick and our very own Mr. Goldberg), showed us the he is a triple threat.

With his amazing video skills, the ability to communicate with just about anybody and the best lyrics since Vanilla Ice, his success is a surefire thing. Paczos will be taking his talents to the prestigious school of art/design, the College for Creative Studies, to pursue a degree in advertising and graphic design.

DECA

OLIVIA PERRY



Senior Olivia Perry came to BHS from the International Academy in her junior year. For her, the change was hard because “It was almost like repeating the transition from Middle School to High School... I didn’t have a friend group that I just fit into.” While the transition between schools was not the easiest, Olivia immediately found a great deal of success in DECA.

DECA is an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the world. Olivia has joined the select group of individuals that learn how to apply their marketing skills to prepare themselves for the business world. She has only participated in DECA for two

years, but even in this short time, her achievements in DECA are many. Perhaps her most prestigious recognition is becoming a State Champion for Restaurant and Food Service Management. It would seem that she is somewhat overqualified for her current position as a server at Bagger Dave’s.

This month, Perry traveled with other elite members of the DECA organization to Atlanta, Georgia in order to take part in a marketing conference. “I met new people, and I learned how to speak professionally and deal with real life situations given a limited amount of time,” Perry said.

Having this marketing ability will allow Olivia to go far in any career path she chooses. She will be attending Central Michigan University in the Fall and majoring in business. She already has potential internships lined up including a position with the General Motors Marketing Department. She said, “[DECA] was tough, but [it was] one hundred percent worth it.”

ART

BARBARA NASH



With artwork that compares to that of a famous artist, Berkley High’s own Barbara Nash is continuing on her creative journey towards greatness next year at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids.

Nash’s paintings have not only been loved and praised by her friends, family and the community, but by Kendall College. They recognized Nash’s hard work and decided to give her a substantial scholarship. “When I received the scholarship, I was not really expecting it. I’m not insecure about my art, but I never knew that it was that good,” Nash said.

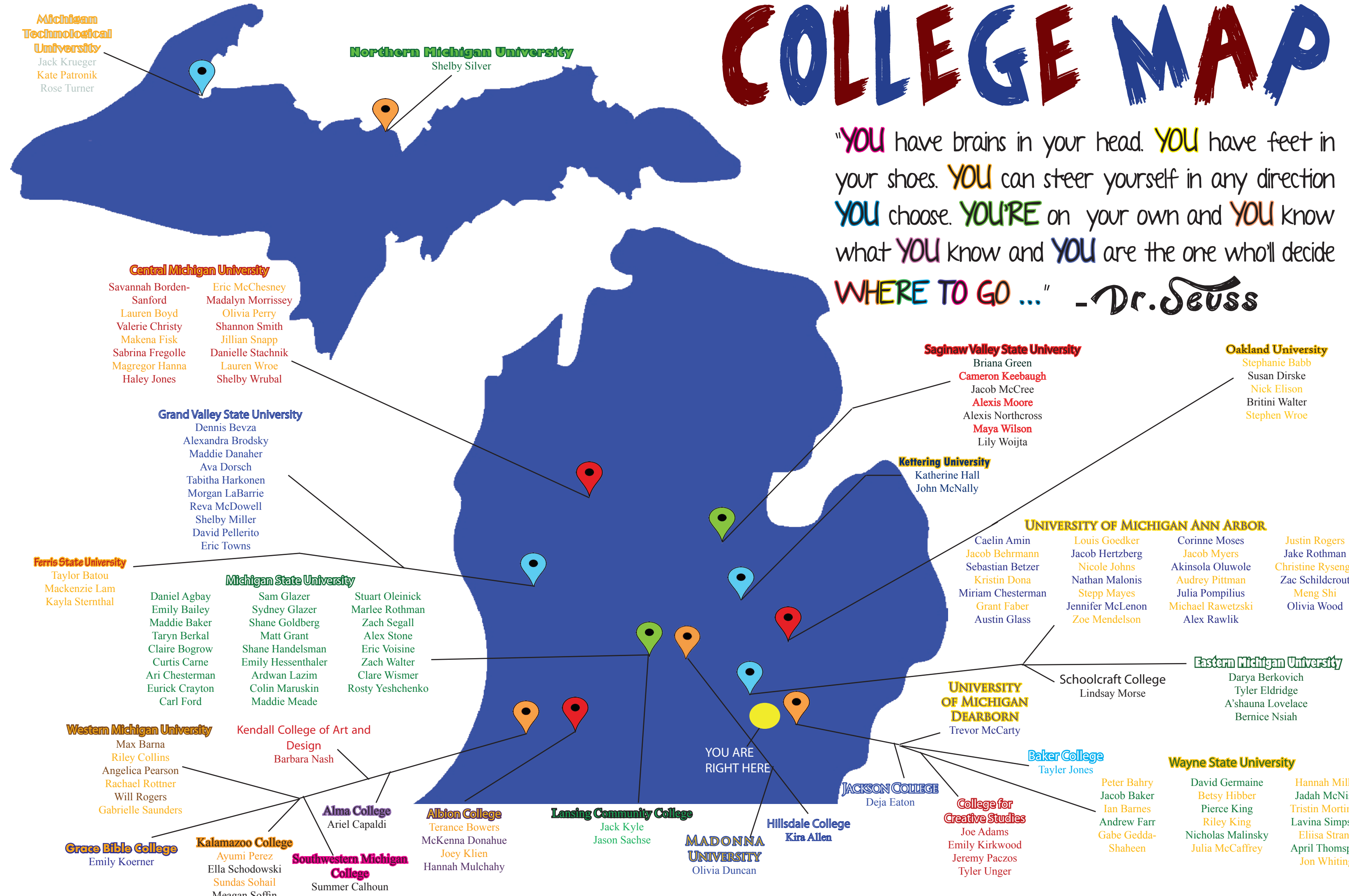
Being an artist has not always been easy for Nash. She has been told numerous times that art is not a smart career choice due to the low pay. Ignoring the harsh opinions of others, Nash decided to continue on and pursue her passion to be an artist. “[Art] is something I’ve always been good at and interested in, but just recently, I decided that it is what I’m best at,” Nash said.

When asked about her favorite memory throughout her years at BHS, Nash said, “My favorite memory has probably been this year’s Scholastics.” For those unfamiliar with Scholastics, it is a prestigious national art competition which began in the late 1940s. Close friend, and senior Lia Spade spoke about how proud she is of Barbara and said, “It feels so good to have seen Barbara grow with her art and now she is able to make it her career.”

Although students and staff will miss Nash’s art work around the halls of BHS, hopefully one day soon they will be able to view them in museums and galleries.

COLLEGE MAP

"YOU have brains in your head. YOU have feet in your shoes. YOU can steer yourself in any direction YOU choose. YOU'RE on your own and YOU know what YOU know and YOU are the one who'll decide WHERE TO GO ..." - Dr. Seuss



Out of State Colleges

- ALABAMA-**
 Mariah Brown- **University of Alabama**
 Jennah Jones- **University of Alabama**
- FLORIDA-**
 Amyre Tensley- **Bethune Cookman University**
- GEORGIA-**
 Marlee Newman- **Georgia Tech. University**
 Quincy Jones- **Southern University**
 Jessica Vovk- **Agnes Scott College**
- ILLINIOS-**
 Shelby Allen- **Illinois State University**
 Liam Kelly- **Columbia College**
- INDIANA-**
 Kyle Kube- **Purdue University**
- IOWA-**
 Ian Miller- **Drake University**
- LOUISIANA-**
 Marla Krasnick- **Tulane University**
- MINNESOTA-**
 Kris Kelly- **Rochester Community and Technical College**
- MISSOURI-**
 Paul Williams- **Truman State University**
- NORTH CAROLINA-**
 Elijah Jonah- **Duke University**
- NEBRASKA-**
 Madison Cross- **University of Nebraska**
- NORTH DAKOTA-**
 Jimmy Myers- **University of North Dakota**
- NEW HAMPSHIRE-**
 Madison Murray- **Franklin Pierce University**
- NEW JERSEY-**
 Jesse Wheeler- **Rutgers University**
- NEW YORK-**
 Lukas Laramee- **Culinary Institute of America**
 Lenie Siegal- **Sarah Lawrence College**
 Sam Silverstein- **Stand up comedy**

OCC

- Jenna Apostol
- Abe Azar
- AJ Baxter
- Autumn Breck
- Sam Byck
- Jessica Canute
- Ethan Cobb
- Amanda Crouther
- Corey Crowe
- Haley Debene
- Daniel Duffy
- Olivia Elias
- Matt Gabriel
- Zach Gedda-Shaheen
- Kristina Hadley
- Travis Harper
- Tyler Heroux
- Kayla Hoke
- Logan Jabouri
- Josh Jones
- James Kaurala
- Breanne King-Betts
- Sabrina Kotila
- Nick Lapitch
- Reshaun Little
- Kaitlyn Loghoun
- Adrianna Marrone
- Reno Max
- Andrea Megroet
- Rachel McGowen
- Rebecca McGowen
- Riley Miertl
- Ray Perry
- Yosi Pieczenik
- Olivia Pope
- Sabrina Porter
- Armonie Redwine
- Mia Rias
- Javon Robinson
- Daniel Roedoger
- Shelby Roy
- Alec Sanom
- Morgan Sanchez
- Adam Sherer
- Brooke Schraffenberger
- Lance Shwerin
- Andre Slay
- Anna Shlau
- Evan Sheshock
- Leah Spink
- Rachel Steinik
- Jessica Steele
- Jeffrey Stinson
- Kiauna Sydanmaa
- Montez Van
- Kyle VanCleave
- Brad West
- Jodie Wiechec
- Julia Wilkinson

Air Force

- Yimaj Sheriff

U.S. Army

- Evan Beauchamp
- Caleb Kuzara
- Ahmad McDaniel
- Kyle Pool

Around the World

- ISRAEL-**
 Joe Wolfson- Year Abroad
- NETHERLANDS-**
 Julianne Subia- Leiden University
- TORONTO-**
 Nora Strickstien- York University

Undecided

- James Bala
- Ashley Benson
- Josh Coleman
- Trevor Deason
- Sonia Gazi
- Kaitlyn Gorman
- Devin Higganbotham
- Andrew Jordan
- Jason Kalts
- Alonna Luster
- Thomas Porter
- Cayla Rogers
- Patrick Schafer
- Kylara Sims
- Javen Staples
- Jennifer Yenkel



NICK LAPICH
BOYS' BASKETBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Lapich's favorite memory was at this year's game at Stoney Creek; the Bears made a huge comeback late in the game and ended up winning. During the stretch, he had a few clutch layups to help put his team on top.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Earned varsity letter

YEARS PLAYED:

8 years, 2 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Oakland Community College

QUOTE:

"He's Kobe Bryant," teammate senior Dennis Bezva said.



ALEXIS NORTHCROSS
GIRLS' TENNIS

FAVORITE MEMORY:

The first tournament she played with the Bears where they placed third as a team.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

She is the number one singles player and captain of the girls tennis team

YEARS PLAYED:

10 years, 4 on varsity.

COLLEGE:

Saginaw Valley State University and hopes to join a recreational women's tennis league.

QUOTE:

"[Alexis] a really strong player... she always tries to improve and listens to her teammates really well," her teammate, sophomore Mackenzie Newman, said.



EURICK CRAYTON
BOYS' SOCCER

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Leading the Bears to a victory over rival Brother Rice.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

The accolade that stands out is when the Bears won the league. The team worked restlessly to achieve the best record of 13-2-2

YEARS PLAYED:

13 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Michigan State University

QUOTE:

"I had a great time playing for BHS, I created lasting memories."



S. BETZER
CROSS COUNTRY

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Sebastian Betzer's favorite memory is when he finally managed to break the 17 minute barrier in the 5K race.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

MVP of the team as a sophomore, junior, and senior OAA Scholar athlete for three years

YEARS PLAYED:

8 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University of Michigan where he plans to continue running on the MRun club team.

QUOTE:

"He's always running. You'd think he would've found what he's looking for by now," junior Caleb Driker-Ohren said.



JASON SACHSE
BOYS' TENNIS

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Sachse's favorite memory was being able to go to states two years in a row during his junior and senior year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Inducted onto the wall of fame at BHS

YEARS PLAYED:

8 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Lansing Community College

QUOTE:

"Playing on the team was always something to look forward to. I made a lot of memories with a lot of different people and I am sad that it is over."



MADISON MURRAY
GIRLS' SOCCER

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Beating Bloomfield Hills High School because it was a good experience for the team to beat their previous coach.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Murray has been a captain for two years

YEARS PLAYED:

13 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Franklin Pierce University to play hockey and possibly soccer.

QUOTE:

Murray said, "Being a part of this program helped me make friends from all grade levels each year, and that was awesome."



STUART OLEINICK
BOYS' SWIM AND DIVE

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Placing 28th at States his junior year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

2013-2014: First place in league meet, 13th in the country championships and 13th in regional meet

YEARS PLAYED:

8 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Michigan State University and plans to keep gaining experience rowing, but not diving.



ZAC SCHILDCROUT
BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Winning the 4x400m at the Crestwood Invite.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Numerous medals at invitationals

YEARS PLAYED:

4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University of Michigan will run for their club team, MRUN.

QUOTE:

"Running on the 4x800 team with Zac was a delight; his determination really inspired the team," senior Sebastian Betzer said.



SHELBY ALLEN
GIRLS' TRACK AND FIELD

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Competing at nationals for long and triple jump this year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

All-American, all-state, all-league, all-county, all-region

YEARS PLAYED:

6 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Illinois State University, where she will continue to long jump and triple jump.

QUOTE:

"[Placing sixth at nationals] made all the blood, sweat, and tears from years past validating and un-regrettable."



NICOLE JOHNS
GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

FAVORITE MEMORY:

When teammates came to support her at States.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

The Iron Woman award in 2011, OAA Scholar Athlete award in 2011 and 2012 and Ms. Track and Field in 2012

YEARS PLAYED:

6 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University of Michigan

QUOTE:

"It was all about the team and the connection we had."



KRISTEN DONA
GIRLS' SWIM AND DIVE

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Her first state time cut in the 200 meter freestyle relay at the League during her sophomore year.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ HONORS:

Three-year state qualifier, All-League in 100 Free, two time MVP, and captain senior year

YEARS PLAYED:

10 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University of Michigan

QUOTE:

"As an only child the girls were like my sisters."



EMILY KOERNER
GIRLS' BASKETBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Against Seaholm High School, BHS was down by two and Koerner was able to score two free throws in order to bring them into overtime.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Team captain

YEARS PLAYED:

13 years, 3 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Playing basketball for Grace Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan

QUOTE:

"[Playing basketball for Berkley] was one of the best experiences of my life."



CORRINE MOSES
GIRLS' GOLF

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Playing in regionals earlier this year because everyone played well and it took place at Heather Highlands, which is a great course.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Earning a varsity letter her sophomore year and shooting an 88 at the Oakland County Tournament her junior year.

YEARS PLAYED:

7 years, 3 at BHS

QUOTE:

“She was definitely one of the most supportive members on the team, and she really helped me [to] improve my game over the past few years,” junior Danielle Muench said.



ANTHONY JACKSON
BOYS' GOLF

FAVORITE MEMORY:

When he shot a 31 on the back nine to help the team win the Division II district championship.

YEARS PLAYED:

12 years, 2 at BHS

COLLEGE:

Bowling Green State University for golf

QUOTE:

“I wanted to prove a lot of people wrong... people always told me I couldn't make it, people always told me ‘you don't have this ability, you don't have this drive,’ but when I beat them, I proved something, and that means a lot to me.”



TABITHA HARKONEN
GIRLS' RUGBY

FAVORITE MEMORY:

During her freshman year, Harkonen recorded her first ever tackle on the team. This was a major event for her, and her team, as it was the game saving tackle to preserve the victory.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

4 years on varsity

YEARS PLAYED:

4 years at BHS

COLLEGE:

Grand Valley State University and will play on their Division I rugby team

QUOTE: “Rugby has too taught me to be patient in life and when going to bash someone on the ground.”



RENO MAX
BOYS' BOWLING

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Max's favorite memory was forgetting to take off the slide cover on his shoe, making him stick on his approach and fall on the landing.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Varsity letter as a freshman

YEARS PLAYED:

4 years at BHS

COLLEGE:

Oakland Community College

QUOTE:

“It was bowling, [so] you know, everyday different things. We're out there rolling the ball, scoring, getting pins, strikes, [and] spares. Whatever happens.”



AMYRE TENSLEY
GIRLS' BOWLING

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Tensley's favorite memory with the BHS girls' bowling team was being able to spend her last banquet with all of her teammates.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Varsity letter, Girls' Bowling MVP Award for three years in a row, placed first in the state competition

YEARS PLAYED:

10 years, 4 at BHS

COLLEGE:

Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, FL where she may bowl.

QUOTE:

“Bowling can be an intense sport, but you cannot get discouraged. Just remember it is a game and to have fun.”



PETER BAHRY
BOYS' RUGBY

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Bahry's most beloved memory was winning the State Championship in the 2012-2013 season.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Varsity letter earned

YEARS PLAYED:

3 years at BHS, leading scorer senior year

COLLEGE:

Wayne State University. He may play for their club team if the opportunity arises.

QUOTE:

“It was worth all the blood, sweat, and lots of tears.”



AARON PARR-BESEMER
WRESTLING

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Parr-Besemer's favorite memory is making the State meet, where he was only one match away from placing.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Selected for Team Michigan for the Junior Olympics twice, medaling once, estimated 130 wins over his varsity career

YEARS PLAYED:

7 years, 4 years on varsity

QUOTE:

"Aaron was hard working and dedicated. He gave it his all last season, he has taught me everything I know," junior and teammate Gary Brown said.



STEVEN WROE
HOCKEY

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Wroe's favorite memories were during the Royal Oak games. He said he enjoyed seeing everyone cheering and showing so much support for the team.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

All-State for sophomore, junior and senior year

YEARS PLAYED:

12 years, 4 on the varsity

COLLEGE:

Oakland University; playing on a junior league

QUOTE:

"His quiet focus is what he brought to the game, he worked hard all the time and it made everyone's job easier and was a huge part of our success," senior Alex Rawlik said.



ALEC SANOM
FOOTBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Alec's favorite memory is the feeling he got the first time he ran out of the tunnel before his first varsity game.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

YEARS PLAYED:

2 years on varsity

COLLEGE:

Oakland Community College

QUOTE:

"He brings a good energy to the field, and keeps the game fun for all of his teammates," senior Sam Silverstein said.



MCKENNA DONAHUE
VOLLEYBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Donahue remembers when she was at a tournament and her sets were setting players up for good plays. After the game, the opposing team's coach complimented her on her how well she played.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Awarded MVP on JV, the OAA award, Bear of the Year, and OAA scholar athlete

YEARS PLAYED:

6 years, 2 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Albion College and will be running on their track team, and she may play volleyball.



SHANNON SMITH
SOFTBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Smith's favorite memory was defeating John Glenn High School in a nine-inning game.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Team captain

YEARS PLAYED:

12 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Central Michigan University where she is hoping to be a walk on player in the fall.

QUOTE:

"It took a lot of hard work, but the improvement that we have shown over the past four years I have been on the team is indescribable."



JACOB BAKER
BASEBALL

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Bakers favorite memory was throwing a no hitter against Clawson during his junior year. He felt as though that was going to be the greatest game of his life, but the following game he threw a one hitter against Royal Oak leading the Bears to another one sided victory.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS EARNED:

Perfect record senior season, named MVP

YEARS PLAYED:

13 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Western Michigan University

16 THE SPECTATOR



CHRISTINE RYSENGA
FIGURE SKATING

FAVORITE MEMORY:

During her sophomore year, Christine Rysenga and her six-person team received second place at states. This is the highest place they had ever been awarded.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

States all 4 years, and team captain for three years

YEARS PLAYED:

14 years, 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

University Of Michigan

QUOTE:

“Our team is like a little family, and it’s very hard to say goodbye to them and [to] skating.”



MADDIE MEADE
DANCE

FAVORITE MEMORY:

There are too many to name.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Team captain

YEARS PLAYED:

14 years , 4 on varsity

COLLEGE:

Michigan State University

QUOTE:

“Of course I’ll miss the dance team; everyone involved has been a huge part of my life and has helped me to become the dancer I am today. We have had some great memories but I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”



RACHAEL ROTTNER
CHEER

FAVORITE MEMORY:

Rottner’s proudest memory was as a junior when the cheer team won the league championship.

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

Varsity cheer all four years

YEAR PARTICIPATED:

12 years, 4 on varisty

COLLEGE:

Western Michigan University

QUOTE:

“It’s more challenging than you would think, it is very time consuming.”

Fare ye well, Berkley

Julia Pompilius '18, University of Michigan

When I first stepped foot inside Berkley’s doors, I thought to myself, “Wow, this place is exceptionally ordinary.” Bland brick walls, linoleum floors, and a menagerie of unfamiliar and not particularly significant faces did not excite me the way a first day of school should. The August heat still lingered in the stagnant air, and I wondered what could possibly keep me sane throughout the next four years. However, as time passed and the halls and faces became more familiar to me, I began to develop a little place in my heart for Berkley. Even after suffering through swim class first thing in the morning, I began to look forward to the surprises held in store for me by my zany teachers. The swarm of faces became less and less frightening. There was something comforting in the gradual understanding of what makes Berkley what it is, reconciling my preconceived notions of what high school was with the reality that is BHS. Although Berkley has no “jock table” in the cafeteria, like any high school, its student body consists of certain friend groups. What surprised me was that these “cliques” were not as exclusive as we see in *Mean Girls* and for the most part, intermingling between these cliques is not hard to accomplish. There are certainly social boundaries within Berkley, but the most fun is had when those boundaries are crossed.

Granted, the majority of my days at BHS were spent counting the minutes until the bell rang and then, the days until the weekend. I really don’t get the same kick out of football games as everyone else seems to, and after about 20 minutes at school dances, I’m sick of the music. I never anticipated my last few days at Berkley as being a sad event, but as I am now days away from graduation, I can’t help but feel some sadness. I will most definitely miss Ms. Simpson’s endless stash of \$1 candy bars, Doty’s attempts to anger me mid-lecture, and my conversations with Rick as I roam the halls during second hour. As much as I sometimes loathe Berkley’s narrow hallways, I know I will never again have a community of people I can tolerate at 7:40 in the morning until 3 o’clock in the afternoon, and sometimes even have fun with. Whether you like it or not, high school plays a huge role in your development as a person, and overall, I’m glad to say I developed at Berkley.

Develop your character, not your image

Olivia Wood '18, University of Michigan

With only a week left before the seniors’ last day of school, it is only natural to stop and reflect on the past four years of our high school careers. When we all entered the hallowed halls of BHS for the first time four years ago, we had no idea what to expect and, if we’re being completely honest, we were all probably a little wary. It only took a few weeks to learn our way around the halls but understanding the complex way in which high school actually works took a bit longer.

After four years of waking up at 6:15 a.m., sitting through a grueling seven hours of classes, and coming home to a mountain of work that never seemed to get any smaller, one would hope to gain some kind of knowledge. I have certainly been able to take away at least a few valuable life lessons.

The first life lesson that I wish to impart on all of you reading this is that you should become involved in things not to pad your resume, but to help you discover the things that you are passionate about. Being the girl who was involved in every club and who always did every homework assignment—even the extra credit—I know I seem like a hypocrite. It was my extreme and overboard dedication to school that made me realize the frivolity of my actions. My message is not to spend your four years doing nothing. On the contrary, it is to do things that create happiness for yourself and for others. If you can get past how cliché it seems, I guarantee that you will feel more fulfilled.

Get involved in organizations that interest you, choose to be friends with people whom you actually like, and do not be afraid to go out of your comfort zone every once in a while. One thing I wish I had realized sooner is that high school is a time when you should be focusing on developing your own character, not your image. While it is easy to get caught up in creating the coolest image for yourself that your peers will like and accept, after your four years are over it will no longer matter how people perceived you. In a world lacking individuality, try to maintain yours and make the most of your four years.

What year is it again?

Corey Lipton '16, Incoming Managing Editor

Just checking, but this is 2014, right? The United States was founded over 200 years ago, right? The slaves were freed over 150 years ago, right? African Americans and women have been able to vote for nearly 100 years now, right? In America's 200+ years as a nation, we have faced many pressing issues. These issues have often taken long periods of time to resolve because the first generation that faces them often fails to rise to the challenge. In most of these large issues, younger generations come together to fix the problem. Right now, we have another huge problem upon us—same sex marriage. Same sex marriage is a hot button topic, as various states have been legalizing and outlawing it for about ten years now. As of May 2014, love is illegal in two thirds of the states in our nation. Still, people against same sex marriage are clearly losing ground, as the gay movement has been on the rise over the past few years, and will hopefully continue to do so.

The main argument against same sex marriage comes from the Bible, which in and of itself just does not add up. In America, the opinion of the Bible is as valuable as what I present today because the Supreme Court has established and upheld a clear separation of church and state. That has not stopped a vocal, yet shrinking minority from being opposed to same sex marriage. Even Bill O'Reilly, king conservative and Fox News coverboy said that "the compelling argument is on the side of the homosexuals" on *The O'Reilly Factor*. Warning signs should go off like it's Christmas in conservative minds when Bill O'Reilly starts to disagree with them. The minority that is still against gay marriage will be portrayed in the same light that people who were pro-slavery and anti-women's rights; they can fight all they want, but in the end, same sex marriage will be legalized because us as the younger, more tolerant, open-minded generation will make sure of it. We will show the acceptance for our fellow man that some of the older generation clearly refuses to show. While this will be no easy task, our generation must hold itself accountable to end this major injustice. As students who will soon lead the world, we need to lead in the right direction—the direction of compassion, of tolerance, and of equity.

The problem with fitting in

Josh Radom '16, Incoming Managing Editor

If there is one thing that I have observed during my two years of high school, it is that everyone longs to feel like they are a part of something. To try to obtain the goal of "fitting in," at a certain point in our lives we begin to view certain things as the norm: flawless faces, skinny bodies, even the way people misrepresent themselves. We try to morph ourselves to fit these normalities especially in high school as we try to figure out who we want to be.

In "The Vision of Human Nature," an article written by Richard Lowry of Vassar College, Lowry writes "that each of us will be well advised, on some suitable occasion, to make a low bow to the deeply moral nature of mankind; it will help us to be generally popular." He basically is saying that it is human nature to do things to fit in with the people viewed to be at the top of the social ladder. Because of this, we start to do certain things like change our attitudes or the way we dress, because we know it will get an accepting reaction from the people we are trying to impress. Before we even do anything, we first think about how it is going to affect our image in the eyes of whom we want to view us as "cool" or "funny." But does rebuilding your reputation into someone completely different to fit in not make you feel fake? Everyone is so concerned with how they are going to be labeled by everyone else that they begin to change themselves to fit the mold of a certain type of person.

With a "social ladder" that will be intact in any type of competitive environment like high school, people are transformed into cowards. They become afraid of what everyone thinks of them, and because of this they are afraid to show their actual personality, afraid to stand out, and essentially afraid to be who they really are because of the reaction that they might receive from others who are too judgmental, too insecure and too close minded.

Although it is hard to see any type of change in the way social status is measured on the social ladder, it is possible. If we were to ignore the status quo and truly be ourselves without longing for acceptance, we would not only find out who our true friends are, but we would be starting a new movement. One that involves taking risks, owning up to being an individual, and not being afraid of who we really are and what we want to become.

B. Cam's final advice: How not to end up living in a cardboard box

Ms. Beth Cameron '14, Marketing/Business Teacher

Ms. Mullins asked me to write an article for the class of 2014's Senior Edition of the *Spectator*. I suppose she's thinking that since I'm graduating this year with all of you I could impart some wisdom I've learned in the almost 27 years I've roamed the halls of BHS. I figure I've taught about 3,500 kids in my time at BHS. It's a blessing to have a job where you have the opportunity to meet so many people. I've learned a lot from students over the years, and in all they've made my career memorable. I know my approach is cliché, but isn't that what graduation is all about? I imagine some of you, in your years "post Berkley High," on the brink of doing something stupid, something really stupid, but you STOP. You reflect on my article in the 2014 senior *Spectator* and you don't do that thing. All thanks to me and my 755 word column! You're welcome.

What I Know:

- Who you are now is not necessarily who you will be. Your success or lack thereof in high school is no measure of your future success. When you take your diploma in your hand it marks the end of your high school days and the very beginning of your new adult life. You all have the opportunity to reinvent yourself.
- Spend the next five years of your life developing a skill set that will make you marketable. There are many ways to make a living and make a positive contribution to society. You won't "find your purpose" lying on the couch in your parents' basement.
- Be a problem solver. Life does not have a set of directions or a rubric. YOU have to figure it out. People have done it for thousands of years. Take initiative—you are the one who has to live with what you create.
- Sometimes you will fail. My mother always told me life is the hardest teacher because it gives you the test first and the lesson later. Learn from the times you fall short.
- You can't soar with eagles if you roost with chickens. Surround yourself with people who have goals and pursue them. Dumbasses are fun to hang with sometimes but don't follow anyone to "the road to nowhere."
- Doubt is a dream killer. Don't ever NOT try because you think you can't do something; give your ambitions your best shot.
- Put the phone down. Seriously, put it down. It's a wonderful invention, but it is NOT an appendage. You will be fine if a few hours pass before you read a text or tweet. Take advantage of the face time you get with people.
- Keep your emotions OUT of your social media postings. Don't be that person who uses social media to trash talk or tell the world "so-and-so" broke your heart. It makes you look stupid.
- Understand nobody is impressed you showed up. People gravitate to people who contribute and make things happen. Nobody cares if you volunteered for the charity car wash if you're the one standing around waiting for somebody to tell you what to do.
- W-O-R-K is H-A-R-D. There is no way around it. Don't be fooled by people who make it look easy, they just learned how to do it well. The sooner you figure that out the better off you will be.
- Adults are self-supporting. The day you are 100 percent off your parents, payroll is the day you truly become one. Until then show some respect for people who are doing it.
- Pay yourself first. Learn how to save money and do it every paycheck. When you're living at home bank 70 percent of your earnings for your education and costs associated with your journey into adulthood. In your adult years, save 20 percent so you don't have to work for the rest of your life.
- Respect money. Don't worship it or spend it recklessly. Money does not buy happiness, but it insulates you from things. Learn how to manage your money.
- Find the value in older people. They all survived this thing called life. Talk to, listen and learn from them.
- Try always to do more good than harm. Don't be swayed by easy money; don't take advantage of people.

So that's it. Those are my parting words as the BHS staff prepares to toss you into the real world. Oh, one more thing: I've learned people over 50 should NOT take selfies—any picture taken of you just an arm length away is not something people need to see.

In pursuit of myself

Ty Eldridge '18, Eastern Michigan University

Freshman year: I could use somebody

When I came to Berkley High School I felt like I entered a shark tank. At first, I came into high school stressed and quiet because all I heard were the horror stories about people screwing up freshman year and never being able to raise their GPA again. I had always trusted that I was always where I was supposed to be, and I would end up where I was meant to be but now I was not so sure. Luckily, a guardian angel somewhere in the world granted me someone to help me survive,—a smart best friend. I knew I didn't have to worry about my GPA. I figured I did not have to worry because I now had somebody to help me. In the beginning, that was my way of tackling high school. I was a naïve freshman who began the pursuit of trying to get through high school by, in a sense, depending on others when necessary. This all started with math for me. Math was the make or break of my GPA. It has never been a good subject for me. Lucky me though, I was able to find someone who loved math, was close to me and could help me get through the class. I thought I had been blessed. Instead of tackling the class myself, I found others to depend on. This became a habit in most aspects of my high school career; I began motivating myself through others instead of myself. High school was going to be a breeze. So my pursuit of taking charge of high school became the unfortunate pursuit of depending on others.

Sophomore year: Oh, hormones

There were many frightening moments, many moments in which I did not think I would make it through. I made mistake after mistake, which catapulted me in the exact direction I was meant to go. I don't regret any of it, because all of the wrong choices led me to the right place. During sophomore year, I was calm, cool and collected as long as there was somebody by my side. My second year of high school, my grades were up to par. I had changed a lot from my freshman year, but looking back, I can see that it wasn't necessarily for the best. I puffed up my chest this year, and I walked into BHS with a greater understanding of how the high school game worked. I still had my support system which I still depended a lot on for the majority of the time, but I was doing well in math and I had become involved in the school. Things were going to be alright. What I didn't understand was instead of being in pursuit of depending on others, I needed to be in pursuit of tackling high school. I needed to focus on grades, be involved in school but in things I liked and not just things that other people liked. It seemed so simple. "Stay in pursuit" was my motto. I tried to follow that motto every day. Sophomore year though, my social life started to take priority. I began to realize that boys were cute, what people said about me actually affected me and appearance was everything. So here I was again, depending on others but this time through their opinions of me. All I needed was the acceptance of others to accept myself, socially and academically, and then let the pieces fall where they may, right? I did not realize that something that sounded so simple could be so hard and detrimental.

Junior year: A step in the right direction

I had met my match with Algebra 2. I told myself that it was okay and reminded myself that I had been blessed with others to help me through my challenges. One day reality hit, I guess my guardian angel finally decided that I was being selfish. My friends and I were through. So there I was, alone with nobody to lean on. I started steering off my path of tackling high school. My grades were slipping—I had a C- in math—and I had forgotten about my high school game plan. The year was coming to an end and by that point I had no idea what I was doing with myself. Then I realized, I never really had a game plan. I was using someone else's game plan for my own selfish reason and they had nothing to do with my goals. I remember being consumed with guilt for feeling unappreciative of all of the potential that I had to offer. I became uneasy and anxious and I wanted to restart the game. So, I decided I needed to start over; I chopped all my hair off, deleted all the contacts out of my cell phone and started paying way more attention in math. I placed myself in a foreign situation so that I could arrive in my most concentrated form. I then came up with a new game plan. I posed the question of "who am I?," and I had no clue. So my new plan was learning who I was and who I was going to be, being in pursuit of myself. I was on a journey to learn something new about myself, not only about my character, but what turns on my light. Once I find something that turns on my light, I'll find purpose. So once I found that something that turned on my light, I knew I'd find my purpose in who I really am. Every disappointment and setback that happened to me was a test. As insane as this may sound, it was destiny.

Senior year: Taking my pursuit to the road

So, here I am, senior year, and with less hair than before. Confessing the story of my life, still in pursuit of myself, but I have a better understanding of who I am, what I am doing and where I am going. After losing and gaining friends and stressing over grades and hair, I can say I am moving on from all the disappointments I encountered in high school, and I will continue my pursuit as I walk the streets of New York City. I will continue my pursuit until I reach my goals and dreams of being a film director and screen play writer. I really want to connect with people through my work and create films that people can relate to. I plan to travel and write my heart out and maybe I'll end up in Europe or Asia. It is amazing being able to look forward to the future with brand new eyes of my own. My life is on a whole new, improved and dedicated course. My pursuit in finding myself is far from over, but I know I am headed in the right direction. I have learned that it is crucial to be dedicated and passionate to yourself and not just others. Everybody has one life to live and so do I. It would be a tragedy not being able to discover that. It is so very important to be relentless in pursuit of your goals. Once you realize that, the success will come and so I am learning.

Life's unanswered questions

Emma Weisberger '16, Incoming Assistant Editor-in-Chief

As humans we take comfort in having "the answer." We crave the definite, solid resolution as to why things are the way they are. We want an undisputable fact that puts an end to all of our worries. The truth is, though, this does not exist. In fact, in most cases there is just not an explanation or solution. The effect of this desire that we have is exemplified through the way we go about attaining these truths. Some people dedicate their lives in an attempt to set up experiments and use the relatively little that we do have in order to solve this universal "why?" These people include scientists and philosophers. Astonishing breakthroughs for humanity have been a result of this desire, but most of the time we find that these trials are inconclusive. In order to fill the gaps, intricate theories are created, but these do not have the finality we want.

When I begin to think about the universe, one of the more popular areas of ambiguity, I, like many others, start to get extremely frustrated. It cannot possibly make sense that we have an infinite amount of information left to learn. How can this thing that we are a part of be so much bigger than us that we cannot even begin to understand it? It is enough to make anyone uncomfortable. The reason for this widespread uneasiness is not necessarily the topic of the universe itself, it is the fear that we as humans have of "the unknown." People like to understand their surroundings so that they know what to expect. They want something there to fall back and rely on. They want something that is for sure. Although we will always continue looking for the answers, there will never be a moment when we have complete comfort in our surroundings. Life is an imperfect place full of questions where the answers are not going to be there most of the time.

This concept applies to science in the most obvious way, but is evident in every aspect of living. People are always going to be afraid of the things that they do not fully grasp. They want to be around what they know, and that is exactly what they do. People that look and act in similar ways stay with each other. It is easier to put yourself in the most comfortable possible position. There is no harm in doing any of this, but the problem arises when people begin to not accept those that are different, and even think of them as less than. The way that people live their lives can make others uncomfortable because they do not understand the different characteristics that some people have. When people do not understand something, they will usually ignore or shy away from it. Just as scientists attempted to solve what they did not know, people like politicians and world leaders will work to understand and fix the qualities in people that are different from them in order to make sense of their world. We put everything into categories and give everything a definition in order to add up the confusing place that we are a part of because we want to know how everything works.

We crave finality. We long for the one single answer to all of our problems. This idea of definiteness is something that causes us to put stress on ourselves everyday when confronting life's many challenges and disagreements. Think back to the last time you were in some sort of a conflict, whatever the issue at hand was about. You were probably trying to be the "winner" of this issue. You were most likely attempting to prove the opposing view was without a doubt wrong in order to gain the complete satisfaction of having the issue entirely resolved and over with. I am not talking about a school debate about something that can actually be proven, but of issues including things like religion or political views. As people, we spend so much time worrying about trying to "win" an unwinnable debate.

People believe that they would be happier if they had all of the answers to life's questions. The first mistake in this assumption is that there are even answers to be had. The world is not something that can be summed up and organized in a manner that would satisfy our needs. It is a place of endless disorder and confusion, full of seven billion individual minds that all have unique thoughts and ideas to be shared. We as humans put too much pressure on ourselves to find the one and only answer. While this goes against all of our instincts, the world would be a much more peaceful place if we learn to accept the craziness that we are a part of. We must try to find the comfort in the answers and positive aspects of our lives that are definite like our friends and families instead of worrying about what we will never be able to understand.

CELEBRATIONS ARE SO DUMB

Rostyslav Yeshchenko '18, Michigan State University

Celebrations are an exciting part of our lives. We celebrate national and religious holidays because they are an essential part of our society. We celebrate athletes and stars because we recognize them as our idols. Sport victories are also widely celebrated by fans. There are some occasions, though, whose importance is exaggerated, yet we still celebrate them regularly.

I used to love birthdays when I was young because it was associated with cake, gifts and attention. But as I grow older, I start to question if a birthday is something I should be celebrating. We celebrate birthdays because it is the one day in the whole year where we get to be in our own little spotlight, feeling important and accomplished, receiving congratulatory remarks and gifts, and being bombarded with excited phone calls from relatives and friends. But what's the point of celebrating birthdays? It is not a celebration of skill or accomplishment. In fact, all it celebrates is the fact that we managed to survive another year of our lives without dying. But somewhere along the way, we formed the idea that birthdays are an important and essential holiday, creating an artificial significance to the otherwise unnecessary celebration. Because of this false notion, even the most undeserving people think they are worthy of being celebrated. No matter how incompetent they are as a worker, how bad they are as a student, or how awful they are as a person, their birthday will still be celebrated and people will still acknowledge and congratulate them.

Graduation, though, is the biggest celebration of nothingness. All of us waited for this day for years and now that it is almost here, I wonder if it too deserves to be celebrated. To answer that question, we have to first decide if completing high school should be considered an accomplishment. And in short, it shouldn't. If you are an average student and you did not endure any hardships or setbacks during your high school career, then there is no reason for you to not graduate other than pure unwillingness. Maintaining decent grades is by no means difficult or challenging, considering the amount of support and encouragement available to each student at BHS. There are tutoring options for each student available, E20/20 for those who need to retake their classes, and counseling help for those who need more personal assistance. Additionally, the variety of classes at BHS is such that you can create an easy schedule for yourself that does not require much effort to pass. There are many students who put minimal effort into school and graduate, showing that graduating and receiving a diploma is not a hard task to achieve. Yet, we still tend to celebrate graduation as a significant achievement in our lives, which it certainly is not. Let's say you work in an office for four years, completing paperwork, sending reports, slaving overtime on weekends, should you really get an award for doing what is required of you? And this isn't even a good analogy because school offers much more benefits than actual work such as breaks, snow days, recreational classes, etc. Managing to not mess up in such an environment for four years isn't something you pat yourself on the back for, let alone throw a party. Graduation should be seen as an opportunity to honor those students who went above and beyond during their high school careers, receiving honors and cords for their extraordinary dedication to academics and school activities.

All of us want to be celebrated in one way or another. You may deny it, but we all like receiving attention and praise. We use birthdays and graduation to receive that much wanted acknowledgement from others. But in reality, the aforementioned occasions are rather valueless because they do not celebrate one's accomplishments or achievements. Instead of blindly celebrating any occasion that comes our way, we should sometimes stop and consider if it is worth celebrating. When you are about to wish someone a happy birthday or congratulate them on completing high school, ask yourself, "Are they really deserving my praise?"

LOOKING FORWARD, AT HIGH SCHOOL'S CONCLUSION

Sebastian Betzer '18, University of Michigan

Endings are very diverse. In musical compositions the end is always a profound silence that allows the impact of the piece to be felt by the audience. In a scientific study, the end represents a pass or a fail of a test and invites analysis of the results. In essay form, the conclusion brings together all of the main arguments and connects them to the real world. In typical narrative structure, it represents the point at which the story has played out, the conflict has been resolved, and the characters move away into the future. The end of high school, a place where we experience these kinds of endings, combines all of these effects.

The end of high school marks the end of a journey that punctuated the period of greatest change in our lives. Likely, the people we are as seniors today is very different from who we were in middle school and is even further removed from our elementary selves. Certainly, we have seen and experienced a great deal in these first 18 years of our lives. In world events, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 occurred during our kindergarten years, leading to a war that has lasted until only recently. In the field of science, the Human Genome Project was completed when we were in second grade, becoming the most expansive scientific project ever undertaken and one with fantastic benefits to the fields of medicine and biology. And our beloved Pluto was ousted as a planet in 2006. Technological advancements are also deeply connected to our development; iTunes and the iPod were released when we were in kindergarten, Gmail was released when we were in fourth grade, YouTube launched when we were in fifth, Facebook during middle school, and a whole host of social networks that capture our attention today. Events such as these shaped our development and our connectedness with the rest of the world.

Today, our world seems to be at a critical juncture. Economic downturn, the discovery of the NSA's surveillance and global strife are the major issues. The escalation of social networking has changed the way people interact with one another—news is perceived as a series of sensational headlines, everything is endlessly parodied and the value of authentic experiences diminish. It may seem that under the onslaught of information there is very little that any one "non-famous" individual can do to make an impact. This, however, is not the case. We now have an excellent opportunity to shape the world in which we live. As adults, our power comes from being able to take responsibility for our actions. The ability to make choices that are meaningful is the strongest tool we have. If something seems problematic to you it is important to challenge it and bring it to the attention of others. By performing small acts of subversion, real societal change can occur. Passivity is dangerous, and blind acceptance can lead to the continuation of the very systems that cause issues in the first place. Given our new place in the world, it is time to accept the task of seeking out injustice and ceaselessly work against it to form a better society. In the words of Elie Wiesel, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

As the class of 2014 says farewell to the halls of Berkley High School one last time, we must realize that while the end seems like a finale, an ultimatum, a conclusion, it is really only the point where this particular tale ends. We are the characters in the book on its final page; our turn in the childhood narrative is over, but that does not mean that our story ends. We must go forth and write ourselves into other narratives. We can use the cultural lessons we have absorbed over the course of our school careers in ways we may not expect. So my fellow seniors, let's go and live our lives to their fullest potential. The world will be a better place for it.

@BHSWaterWars

Shelby Silver '18, Northern Michigan University

Tis the season for the Water War Games and even though they are close to being done, these games have life lessons that I believe should be shared to all of you, my wonderful readers. Although my team's reign was short lived, the things I learned though really spoke to me. It is said, or rather that I've heard various family members say that in life we will live amongst a variety of people and even if we already do, we have yet to see the end to these stereotypes that speak the truth. While competing to stay alive in these games, the people who kept finding success were the people with the following labels: the cheaters, the mama's boy/girls, and the ones who are takin' it all in and livin' da vita loca. Realizing this, and seeing many of the seniors embodying these stereotypes, I began to wonder if those are the type of labels I one day have to obtain in order to be successful.

In these games, there are no tests that determine your future, there are no GPAs that determine how smart you are and there are no teachers holding your hand to help you find your way. You are completely on your own to be successful and to win. It was interesting to me because everyone one of the seniors who participated in the Water Wars were seen as equal, as one, and all the barriers that high school has placed to separate us were eliminated, and it was as if nothing but having fun mattered. But underneath that blanket of fun, I saw that in order to be successful in life, or in this case, through the games, that it does not matter if your class rank is below average, it does not matter if you got a four on an AP exam and it does not matter if you were tardy 30 days in a row. What matters is how far you are willing to go in order to get yourself to the top.

These three stereotypes are the types of people of which I feel are going to be the ones who are going to make themselves successful in life. Yes, Water Wars is just a game, and yes, we will all soon forget the events that happened within these last few weeks of high school, but these are the people who have the wit, the skills and the brains to know how to find their way, or rather make their way at least, to an extent.

The Cheaters-

The cheaters of the real world and the cheaters of Water Wars are very much alike. They both know how to get in and out of certain situations; they weave their way around rules, and their charm and ability to persuade is undeniable. I say that these are the people who know how to weave their way to the top of the socio-economical foot chain because they know what they want, they have a bunch of people who think the same way as them making cheating and getting around the rules that much easier. If you think about it, a lot of these types of people are in the government and who have a lot of power in industries and businesses who commit fraud and flee town, and rarely get in trouble which means that we are letting cheaters win with no effort in fighting for what's right.

The Mama's boys/girls-

In the games, the people who utilize their parents find a way to keep on tiptoeing to the top. In the real world, we see young millionaires, CEOs and big business partners who are makin' the big bucks but are without the proper training, schooling and experience, and a lot of times, the reason they have those positions is because their rich parents give them what they want. In Water Wars' case, when utilizing your parents to get yourself out of a sticky situation with an opponent to help advance yourself in the games is unfair and not handling situations yourself. Many Water Wars teams were victims of this low tactic, and as a result, they lost- mt team included. With that being said, using your parents to get the things that you desire will help you reach your goals in life. So, please, do not waste your time trying to earn a living by going to college or gaining experience and just use your parents to advance yourself into the world of success and wealth. This will really make confident in your abilities. Trust me.

The kids who are just havin' a good ol' time-

Somehow, the people who do not even try and are just trying to have some fun are always the people who miraculously become successful in life. I am not sure how these people do it or why these types of people get everything that I desire in life, but it always happens. So to those of you who are striving to become the valedictorian (aside from @iMkrazee. You rock) or the president of the United States, I strongly suggest that you stop taking AP classes and throw all of your school work out the window and stop trying because you will succeed. Guaranteed.

As much as it kills me to say that these are the types of people who we see everyday in the news and even if these stereotypes are ridiculous and exaggerated, there is some truth to each of them. Sometimes you do have to bend the rules to show how dedicated you are, and people may not like it, but it could help you find good fortune in the end. Don't blatantly cheat though because that's bad. Having your mom and dad by your side is sometimes a big help, and you are always going to need them. As I leave BHS and say my final words, it is always good to have fun no matter what you do. Without fun and without happiness, then there is no point. Being successful but unhappy is no way to truly live. Deuces.

I don't do headlines

Jake Rothman '18, University of Michigan

My last column. Oh boy, hold the phone, here come the waterworks. The memories, the people, the places; it is the stuff we will remember for years and years. In that case, I do not need to waste my entire final column restating the experiences you all have lived, rather I can do it in one concise paragraph:

Berkley High School, you provided quite the decent experience, and I stress the word *decent*. Our academics were terrific (thank you every English course I enrolled in at BHS, especially PA) depending on the classes you took. However, some other courses had the illusion of a challenging course but just ended up spoon-feeding material to its students. Even some courses turned into a game of charades in order to guess what was being learned that day. Some courses were very direct in their purpose and others seemed to explore topics completely unrelated to the material. Our teachers were exceptional (thank you, Ms. Mullins). I am seriously very thankful for the hard work our teachers put in each day; they spend countless hours of their time grading assignments and creating lesson plans. Our athletics were sub-par with flashes of excellence (thank you, Terrell Porter) and moments of personal triumph (thank you, Alex Stone). Our school spirit was lack luster at best with the exception of a few high-intensity sporting events. We all joined our clubs and participated in our extra curriculars that will likely have almost no impact on our lives after we leave our school on Catalpa Rd. Few of us will be so moved by our school activities that we will end up pursuing a career based on those values, but it will be a possibility. Our social atmosphere was typical: we all had our friends and made some new ones, but most of us will be going our separate ways next fall and will be changing hopefully for the better. Overall, high school was likely not what we fully expected it to be but, looking back at it, not one of us are probably surprised at how it turned out. Stay classy, Berkley High School.

There it is, 306 words just summed up my BHS career. It took you around three minutes to read and was likely just as "okay" to read as our high school lives have been, but what has made each of our experiences at BHS unique is how we've strengthened our leadership skills, and how we've actually set ourselves up for success in our future.

Leadership is a word used too often when referring to college applications, but many of the opportunities that supposedly provide the circumstances to gain these skills actually do not end up helping us in real life. For me, joining the journalism class during my sophomore year was one of these all-important experiences. Not only have I climbed the ladder up to achieving the honor of being named Editor-in-Chief, but I have also grown as a person, as now I'm confident in my ability to lead a large group of people. Coincidentally, yet inadvertently, this is precisely what every college wants to see in an applicant.

Being on the *Spectator* staff has done so much more for me than just improving my resume for college. The interactions I had with local businesses and upperclassmen as a sophomore were events I couldn't encounter in any other class at BHS. During my junior year, I was able to interview a real professional: Detroit Tigers GM, President and CEO, Dave Dombrowski, for the paper. I was also tasked with creating the pages for a section each month. Then, as a senior, I have been handed the opportunity to write a column like this every issue in addition to creating the cover. These duties were on deadline and were additional responsibilities I was tasked with completing in addition to the two articles I had to write during every issue. Deadlines are important not only to keep a publication running, but also to prioritize one's life. In this sense, the *Spectator* is similar to yearbook as students in both classes are far beyond the rest of the student body when creating time to manage their workload. There is a different kind of pressure on you when one knows his or her work is going to be seen by the entire school and beyond. And even though I know most of you just look through the photos and likely haven't reached this, the 749th word of my column, the pressure of creating an aesthetically pleasing product on a tight deadline while managing all the other crazy aspects of a high schooler's life is incomparable. The roles and jobs that have been offered to me on staff have let me explore my imagination and to be able to see and feel my work on top of my fingers. A feeling like this cannot be matched in the rest of the school; nothing else can replicate the emotions that run through your body when you see your imagination and own thoughts be published in front of yours, and the rest of the student body's eyes at the same time.

The publication is entirely student run as Ms. Mullins knows when to intervene to save the product and when to let the students run their course on the paper. This is what leadership is. Having to interact with your peers and work together to create a product that you can call your own is what inspires leadership. As much as I'm not trying to plug the *Spectator* into all of your heads, it is true. Nothing else can compare to the tough skin produced after hearing all the self-proclaimed critics of BHS tarnish your work. This school's paper might not be the same quality as *The New York Times* in its writing or layout, but to have the product you have spent a month working on get thrown out within the hour of delivery is heart-wrenching. The importance of writing in our society is, and always will be, unmatched. Being able to take others on a ride with your prose while still effectively getting your point across to the reader is a skill that can distinguish one job candidate from another. This unappreciated ability can help anyone at any time as writing is an art that will always be valued in our society. But furthermore, being able to combine this delicately crafted language and one's imagination is what makes journalism special. No honors English course can compare to the strain on your imagination that forces you to come up with ideas that have never been written about before because, if your article proposal has been previously done, you can bank that your redundant idea will be immediately shut down.

I guess, all I am saying, in totality, is that no other course or high school experience at BHS can replicate the skills you attain and experience you have in journalism. Combining your imagination, a new style of writing, fascinating opportunities, deadlines that must be met, an actual tangible product containing your work, dissenting, yet loud opinions, improved leadership qualities, developed editing and writing, terrific letters of recommendation for college, and a bolstered college app create an activity that cannot be duplicated in our school. Recognizing how important journalism is at BHS and in the world is extremely important: no other high school activity can provide you with all these skills and abilities. So, among all of the thanks to everything else at the school, my real thank you goes to journalism and the *Spectator* for creating an unique environment for me and for setting my future up for success. ✨🌟📝