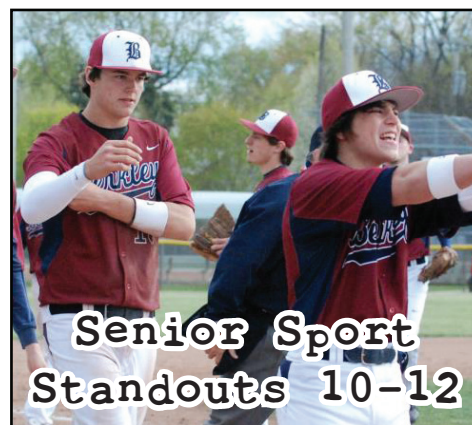


SPECTATOR

May 2012



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SUMMER HOROSCOPES

Sam Lubinecky '12, Managing Editor and Layout Director



Aries: March 21 - April 19

Go with the flow this summer. Typically you are quick to jump to conclusions, but work on taking a step back and not freaking out. You will be plenty busy this summer and will have to make sure you balance your schedule. Although you will have many commitments, make sure to have fun and go out!



Taurus: April 20 - May 20

Let go. It is time to move on and accept that some things are out of your hands. New and exciting things are visible on the horizon, just relax and watch how things unfold. Do not overwork yourself this summer, next school year will be hectic and you will need all the energy you can get.



Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This summer will be a fresh start for you. New friends and new outlooks and views will be very common. Take time this summer to reflect on how you want things in your life to go. Make goals for yourself and follow through with them.



Cancer: June 21 - July 22

If you will have a job this summer, your boss may be overbearing and difficult to deal with. Remember that you are the employee and he or she pays you. Remember that summer is a time to relax, so don't push it!



Leo: July 23 - August 23

A new job will possibly be offered to you this summer, take it. Working is a great experience and way to build character. Be professional and proactive and you never know where this job could take you. Your relationships with friends and family will be great this summer, making it every enjoyable!



Virgo: August 24 - September 23

This summer you will have the motivation and drive to get things done. You will be organized and determined to start and complete various projects. Make sure to slow down and go to the pool or if you are feeling adventurous even go on a road trip. Find the right balance and this summer will rock.



Libra: September 24 - October 22

This summer may or may not be a rough one, regardless you will be learning very valuable lessons. It is important to be patient if things don't always go your way. There will be a strong need for rest and relaxation or even a desire to travel with friends or family.



Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

When it comes to vacation you become so preoccupied with planning that you forget what vacation is really about: resting. Forget about all the tedious planning and hours of trying to figure things out, go with the flow and just let things play out. The best things in life are unplanned.



Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

You are in for a bumpy summer, and only you can change it. You are getting involved with the wrong people and there are going to be major consequences. Go with your gut feeling and stop holding back, you will be greatly rewarded.



Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

This summer there could be a disruptive influence at home or with friends. Someone may start to act erratically or cause stress by rebelling. Change will be at a constant and for you that could be hard to deal with. Take life day by day and you will see how fun it can be.



Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

This summer you will feel loved and appreciated. You will also feel confident about any big decisions you have had to make. Be cautious though, a family member could be in desperate need and you may need to step in. A good cop, bad cop scenario may be necessary to save him or her.



Pisces February 19 - March 20

Life will be easier if you don't take everything so personally. Focus on yourself this summer and take a step back to realize things need to change. Follow your intuition and things will be just fine. Communicate clearly with others to avoid misunderstandings and be sure to be patient and kind.

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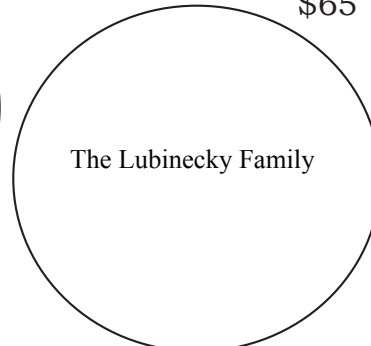
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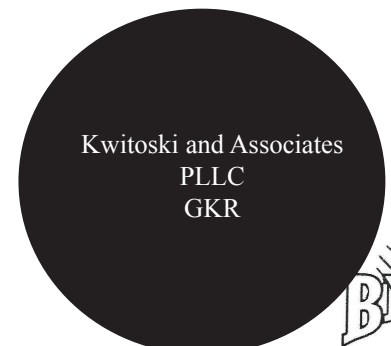


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and may you follow
your dreams!

VICTORIA CHEUNG VALEDICTORIAN

Veronica Marchese '13, Student
Life Editor

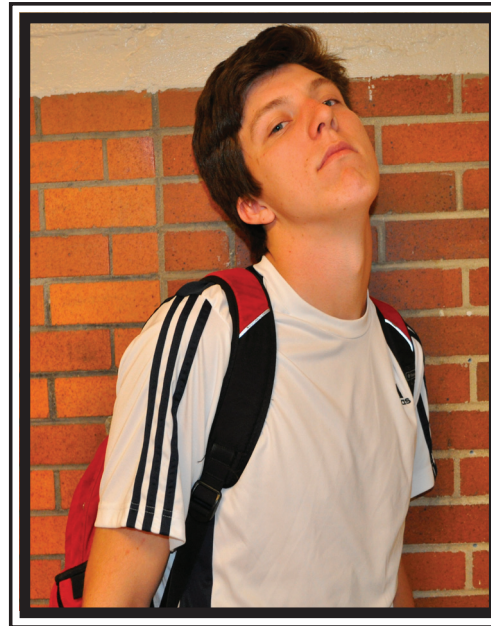


Victoria Cheung, commonly known as Vicky, or the Notorious V.I.C. to her friends, is BHS's class of 2012 valedictorian. As a member of SNHS, NHS, Tri M, MNHS and one who has been featured on the, "Brightest and Best" Commercial, on channel 7, Cheung has definitely earned her spot at the top of her class. Although she sarcastically claims that she does not, "even know why [she is] bothering going to college [since she] should just be a model." All jokes aside, she has definitely worked extremely hard to be where she is today.

Cheung said her hard work and dedication to school was influenced by her older sister, Jennifer, who was the valedictorian for the class of 2010 and currently attends the prestigious Yale University. Cheung insists she has never been pressured to be like her sister, but was only inspired to follow in her footsteps. It must all be in the genes of the Cheung family (someone should check their water, it can't just be H₂O). Cheung will be continuing her academic success at University of Michigan's School of Engineering in the approaching fall.

NICHOLAS TENAGLIA MOST SPIRITED

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor



Driven from pure zeal and a heart that burns with a thousand suns for his beloved BHS, senior Nick Tenaglia is one of true spirit. From the bond that has been formed between him and Mr. Randy Gawel, to him becoming, "one" with the cowbell, the students of BHS will be lost without the king of spirit.

For those of us who were lucky enough to witness Tenaglia enchant the school with his drumming of the cowbell and his blinding amount of energy, we all know that there will never be anyone who compares to him. Tony Tenaglia said, "A wise man once told me, if you have spirit, you will succeed." He also said, "Spirit is to Nick as honesty is to Abe." The upcoming seniors will attempt to match Tenaglia's level of spirit, but it will not be easy. While Tenaglia still seeks to find the perfect college for him, he had one last question to ask the students of BHS. He said, "My question for you is: why isn't everyone else at Berkley High spirited?"

RACHEL BORNSTEIN MOST INVOLVED

Jake Rothman '14,
Business/Ad Manager



There truly is not an activity at BHS that Rachel Bornstein has not been involved in, or at least thought about joining. Bornstein has been a major part of many clubs and sports at BHS, ranging from varsity basketball to D.E.C.A. __Bornstein's most recognizable honor in her time here has been being elected as the senior class president. She also has been involved in varsity tennis, student leadership, NHS, SNHS, and MNHS.

Even with all these activities, she has been able to maintain her great academic standing. This balance was shown when Bornstein was awarded with the academic bear award for the girls varsity basketball team. Bornstein also believes that frequent involvement in extracurricular activities improves one's interpersonal skills. She said, "[They] help you form a bond with the other people involved."

One of Bornstein's fondest memories about her high school involvement was being able to go to states for D.E.C.A. two years in a row. Next year, Bornstein will be taking her impeccable attributes to Ann Arbor, where she will be attending the University of Michigan.

LAURA SACHSE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Clarissa Donnelly '13,
Co-Entertainment Editor



Laura Sachse's passion and natural drive in the business world are just two of her many qualities that have allotted her the position of 'Most Likely to Succeed.' As a sophomore, Sachse started her own tutoring business called "Laura's Lessons." Its success verified her earlier thoughts that she would like to pursue something business related as a career. Her approach is simple: "I make sure to explore different learning methods and see what students respond to best," she said. "I have found that my clients are very smart, but the big classroom setting with one teaching method doesn't necessarily work with them, so I make sure they are getting the personalized lessons." As for her competition with the National Honor Society tutors, Sachse said, "I've found that parents realize that there are ulterior motives for lots of NHS tutors (like getting hours in) and that paying a small fee is worth using me as a tutor because of my experience and reputation."

This fall she plans to attend Wharton school of business at The University of Pennsylvania. Although her final career path is uncertain, Sachse knows she has an "entrepreneurial spirit" and plans to follow it.

ROQHAELLE PARR- BESEMER D.E.C.A.



Sam Lubinecky '12, Layout Director
& Managing Editor

Roqhaelle "Rocky" Parr-Besemer has been nothing short of a D.E.C.A. success. For those who do not know what D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is, its main goal is to prepare up-and-coming leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management at both high school and college levels. Parr-Besemer entered the D.E.C.A. community just two years ago and qualified for internationals both years, making her two for two. Ms. Beth Cameron said, "She works extremely hard and that is why she has been so successful. This year, she made the top one percent at the national level and that is not only extremely rare, but very difficult."

Although D.E.C.A. is a lot of hard work, Parr-Besemer still has enjoyed every minute of it. She said, "In D.E.C.A., you get opportunities you usually wouldn't get otherwise. I have met people from all over the world and I probably would not have been able to without D.E.C.A. Overall, it's just a great and fun experience that I would recommend to anyone who is willing to put in the work." Her success in D.E.C.A. has led her to major in Marketing and Advertising at Wayne State University for the upcoming fall.

GIULIANA CASCARDO ART



Barret Hotz '13, Photo Editor

Not everyone is an artist. Not everyone has the talent, or the eye. Giuliana Cascardo, however, is an artist. She loves creating art pieces, and her favorite style is surrealist. She has been inspired by her dad as he is an artist himself. He encouraged her to become one too, and to pursue her passions. Since middle school, Cascardo has dreamt of becoming a professional artist. She said she "loves documenting real life, but putting her own perception on it." She thinks of creating art as a picture that she gets to edit. Her work is unique and has unusual perspectives. Ms. Cooper said, "In the short time I've known Giuliana I've noticed drive in her and her creativity that makes her a good artist." Cascardo plans to attend the College for Creative Studies in Detroit studying animation and illustration, two remarkable fields in which she already has experience.

MEGHAN STEINGOLD NEWS & BROADCASTING



Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

Advanced Video expert Meghan Steingold has had more than her fair share of memorable moments while being a video student over the past three years. Her most unforgettable memory has been "co-producing the Senior Bear Awards; it was so much work, but a great production in the end." Another favorite memory of Steingold's was being able to be a part of the senior video. Though it has been a lot of hard work, it's all been worth it when it all came together. She is pleased to have been a part of such a huge production here at BHS, and the entire student body appreciates her efforts. Ms. Caye Matthews, News and Broadcasting teacher, said, "Watching Meghan grow up and become a team player was a really remarkable thing over the last couple of years." In the fall, Steingold plans to study journalism at Michigan State University, while still maintaining a firm grasp on her video skills.

MARIE PERRAULT DRAMA



Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

Marie Perrault has always enjoyed singing. She has been a part of several choirs since her first years in school. Upon entering high school, her friend wanted to join one of the BHS plays because she was hesitant to do so alone. So, being a good friend, she auditioned and got a part in the chorus in *Into the Woods*. Rehearsal started and Perrault's love affair with drama began. That first play started her 10-show run here at BHS. Her favorite plays she participated in were *Into the Woods*, *The Crucible*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* because of the "amazing cast members." She lists her greatest accomplishments through her dramatic career at BHS as the parts she was able to play. She also said that, "being in drama shaped me as a person; I could have gone many different ways but this changed my outlook and ultimately me." Although she is unsure of where she plans to further her schooling, she guarantees she will continue with her passion for theatre.

NICHOLAS RIFEL BAND

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye
Editor

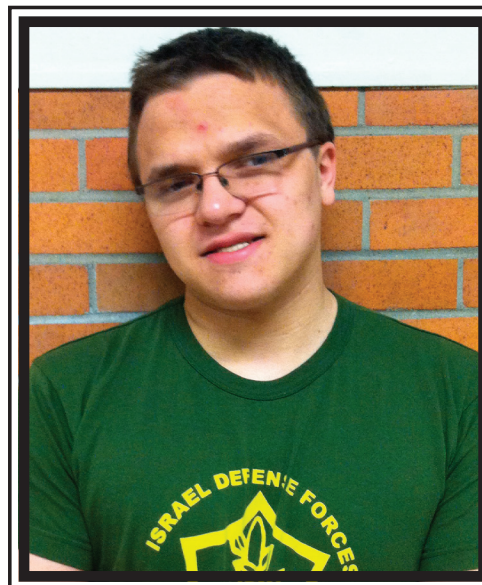


Talented musician Nick Rifel plays the trumpet, accordion, and the piano. Rifel has played the trumpet in band since the fifth grade. "He's fantastic! There's no one I've heard that's better than him," junior Zachary Lask said. Because of all the time Rifel and his fellow bandmates spend together, they have become like a family. To him, it is like a community because everyone in band is always friendly.

At BHS, Rifel is in the Marching, Symphonic, and Jazz bands where he plays the trumpet in each. Half of the year is taken up by Marching band and the other half is Symphonic band. Jazz band is done on his own time. Lask said "His sound and his technique add a lot to the trumpet section." At state and solo ensembles, he continuously receives first division ratings. He is in the state honors band for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. Band has taught him the basics of music and given him a foundation to become the best musician he can be. Being in band inspired him to join the Detroit Civic Youth Orchestra on his own time. Next year he will be attending the University of Michigan where he plans to play the trumpet in their marching band.

JACOB DUCHAN ORCHESTRA

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



As the bow glides gently across the instrumentals of the BHS orchestra, the sounds of domination reverberate throughout the halls. This is a group that has performed far beyond any and all BHS sports, but has yet to receive the same recognition. We do not see a group of students with O-R-C-H-E-S-T-R-A painted across their chest at the concerts, but the group has consistently produced unmatched results.

One of the driving forces of this musical dynasty is senior cello player Jacob Duchan. Duchan has been very successful because the BHS orchestra is a group of people who mesh well together. His favorite part of being a member of the BHS orchestra, Duchan said is, "Being able to play music with my friends." Whether it was getting lost in Washington D.C. on his way to the bathroom or sitting on the bleachers playing anything with a melody, orchestra was a time spent with friends. Duchan said the most important lesson he learned in orchestra was, "Music is about playing with a group of friends." Duchan is attending the University of Wooster in Ohio this upcoming fall.

RACHEL SABBATH CHOIR

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor



Rachel Sabbath has been singing since she was a young girl, and she has been part of a choir since the fifth grade. She feels most comfortable on stage and being up there allows her to relieve stress. While in seventh grade, she was accepted into the honors choir at Norup International.

At the pep assembly this past February, Sabbath was chosen to sing the National Anthem and she performed it extremely well. Here at BHS, she has sung in the co-ed A Capella choir where she sings soprano. "She is an amazing singer; she has a voice of an angel," sophomore Jenna Apostol said. Sabbath believes that choir is a "great place to meet friends" because one instantly has a commonality with others. Other classes can get pretty overwhelming, but choir has given Sabbath "something to look forward to." Next year, she plans to continue singing in the University of Michigan's choir.

PETER HOCH WILDERNESS SURVIVAL GUIDE: PETER HOCH EDITION

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor



Due to his excessive amount of camouflage clothing, it would be assumed that senior Peter Hoch would be invisible. But, here at BHS, anyone who's anyone knows the famed Peter Hoch. Due to his fame as such an interesting character, Hoch can run, but he cannot hide. Although some may think the way he dresses is odd, he likes it because, "It makes me stand out from the drab school crowd." His zany personality has been a great asset to the BHS Wilderness Survival Club and he enjoys doing wacky things that people would never expect. Hoch's passion for the environment and animals has led him to take up a double major in Forestry and Wildlife at Michigan Technological University once classes begin in the fall. BHS has been lucky to have him for the past four years, and his charisma will certainly be missed by everyone.

BRAD**ROELANDT****A CREATIVE MIND IN PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIA,
AN ANOMALY**

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

While much of the graduating class of 2012 moves on to pursue professions in job-secure fields like law, health care, or business, few have the will to follow their creative passions like creative senior standout Brad Roelandt.

Since childhood, Roelandt has demonstrated an obsessive passion to his craft that all great artists seem to invariably manage. A teenage Scott Mescudi took to his bedroom on Friday nights in high school, smoking blunts and writing poetry, until he created his mixtape *A Kid Named Cudi*. As a youth, Woody Allen sat in Katz Deli on the Lower East Side, writing jokes and love stories, until he had written hours of stand-up material and screenplays for *Love and Death*, *Anne Hall*, and his many other classic romantic-comedies. In Berkley, Michigan, an 8-year-old Brad Roelandt, with the help of his 10-year-old sister, filmed short comedies, horrors, as well as hours and hours of other raw, whimsical footage. Like Allen, Roelandt said he uses film as a way of making sense of the world around him, and hopefully helping others to better understand it as well. Admittedly, the caliber of Roelandt's work is slightly below *Kid Cudi* and Allen's. However, his dedication to further his cinematic education and continue to passionately practice his craft has Roelandt headed for Hollywood, but more likely an indie in Flint.

Roelandt will be at Wayne State University in the fall, where he plans to major in film studies. After that, he hopes to attend the University of Toronto or New York University. Currently, Roelandt is working on his first feature film, *Moon Quest*, which he co-wrote and is presently co-directing. If you are interested in seeing some of his work, Roelandt's YouTube account "FingerPointSnap" features dozens of whimsical and silly shorts made by him and his friends.

**RACHEL****PERNICK****DEDICATION GOES A
LONG WAY**

Aaron Cohen '13, Entertainment
Editor

Rachel Pernick has done more at Berkley High School than many do in their entire lives. She served as the president of National Honors Society and Tri-M, played in the orchestra (first chair violin), participated in variety shows, volunteered, and will graduate with a grade point average above 4.0.

Tri-M member junior Gunnar Holmes said, "She put her all into everything she did, and worked her butt off all the time. She always challenged herself to do the best she possibly could." Her organizational skills are a remarkable trait that gives many students the opportunity to participate in events they otherwise would not have. Rachel set herself apart with a unique sense of style and determination in everything she did. Next year, she will continue her success as a student at the University of Michigan. While it is clear that she will go on to do amazing things, her presence here at BHS will most certainly be missed.





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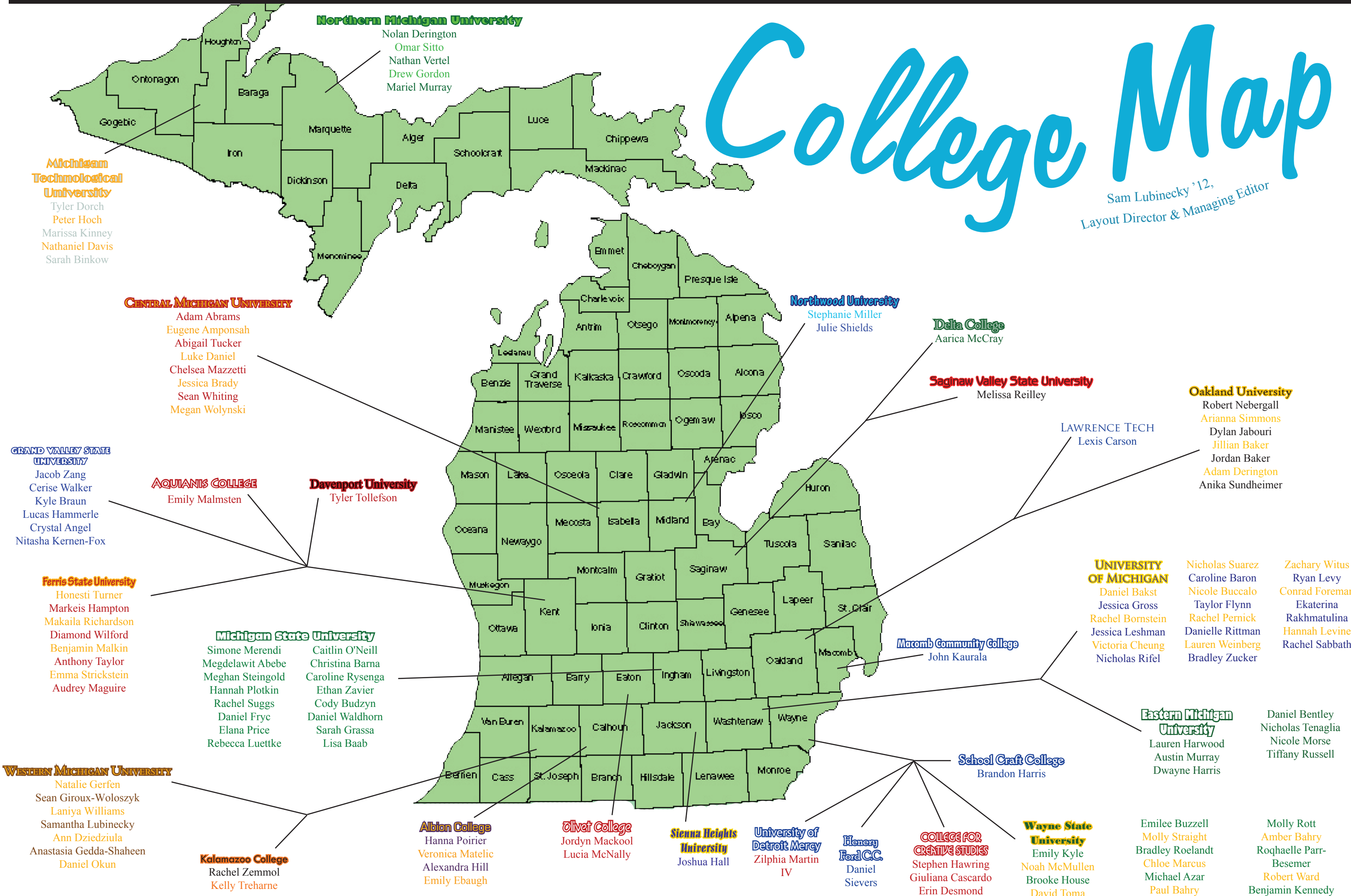

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Sam Lubinecky '12,
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- CALIFORNIA-**
Jonathon Viner- University of California Berkeley
Aleyah Grant- American Academy of Dramatic Arts
- FLORIDA-**
Zhanaya Barnes- Johnson & Wales University
Taylor McCloskey- Edison State College
- GEORGIA-**
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Robert Tomasitis
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Shelby Drabek
Steven Young
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Trevor Bewley
Tyler Forgunson
Victoria Hannah- Zalewski
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- Matthew Quinlan

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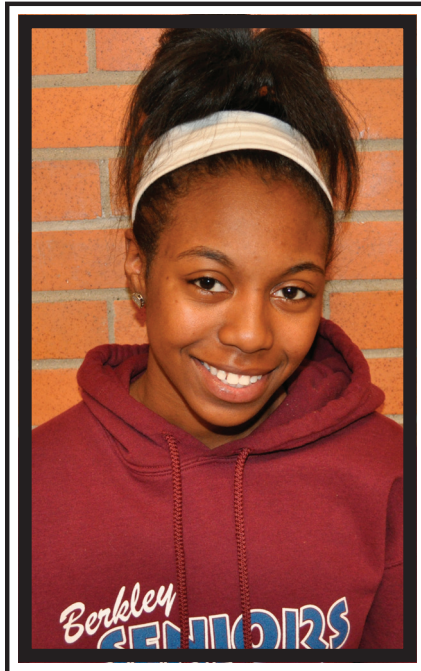
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10 THE SPECTATOR

DIAMOND WILFORD**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

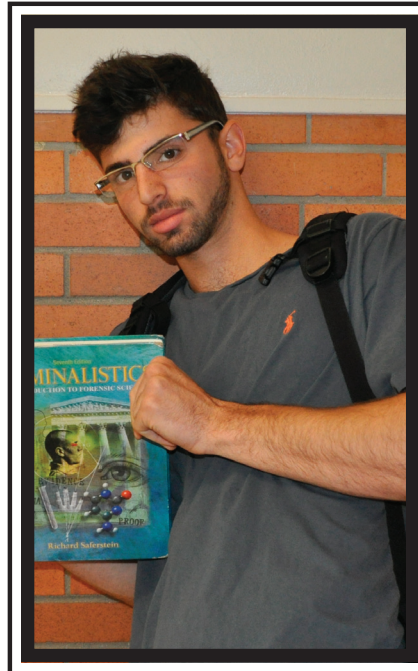
Lenie Siegel '14, Freelance Writer

After discovering her love for basketball at a dribbling camp, Wilford dedicated her time to the sport on multiple AAU and school teams. Wilford said of this year, "I enjoyed having so many underclassmen coming up to me and saying that I've taught them so much." The long hours at practice paid off as she has recently been awarded M.V.P. this season and will continue her career at Ferris State University. Coaches are quite impressed with Wilford's skills, and her teammates are equally as amazed. Wilford has led the girls varsity team to many victories including their win against the number one team in the state, Rochester Adams. There is no doubt that Wilford will continue to enrich the lives of those around her with her basketball game and charismatic nature.

**DANIEL WALDHORN****BOYS BASKETBALL**

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

From the young age of seven, Daniel Waldhorn, affectionately known as Waldo by his friends, has been dedicated to the sport of basketball. After playing for the first time, Waldhorn realized that, not only did he have natural talent, but that the sport also provided him with an "outlet" to express his feelings. Over the years, Waldhorn has channeled his passion for the sport by contributing to many teams, including BHS's own varsity basketball team. After years of playing on BHS's squad, Waldhorn has hopes of gracing the All-American Team. While he does not plan to play professionally nor tryout for the team at Michigan State University, where he will be attending in the fall, he will ensure that his dedication for basketball does not wane.

**OMAR SITTO****FOOTBALL**

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer

Omar Sitto has been a star on the football field for eight years. Making varsity as only a sophomore, which is no easy feat, he is now a three-year varsity football player. Sitto said his favorite football memory is "being together as one, as a family." The football team certainly is a family, and Sitto has helped to make it so. His favorite game memory was his first playoff win against Farmington. Sitto's football skills will not end with his high school years, as he received a football scholarship to Northern Michigan University and will be playing there this coming fall. BHS is proud to have one of its favorite football players carry on the legacy.

**KARSYN BAKER****VOLLEYBALL**

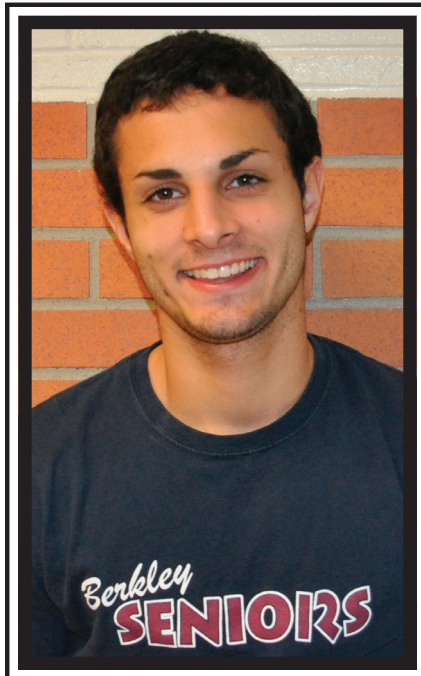
James Demery '13, Opinion Editor

Karsyn Baker has played volleyball since seventh grade, and after six years her hard work paid off when she earned the honor of team M.V.P. at her senior banquet. Her senior year was Baker's second year on the varsity team, and it was a memorable one. Baker's favorite volleyball moment was when the underdog Bears upset the number one seed team Clarenceville in a tournament. On the court, she played the libero position, a defensive middle specialist. Baker will be attending Franklin Pierce University, located in New Hampshire, in the fall, and although she is not continuing with volleyball there, she will play both hockey and soccer.

**SIMONE MERENDI****BOYS TENNIS**

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

Simone Merendi. His name alone sounds like the name of a professional tennis player. Merendi first picked up a tennis racket six years ago and has loved the sport ever since. His determination, along with raw talent, led him to begin practicing professionally. After hours spent practicing, the competitiveness became overwhelming and he decided to revert back to playing for fun. Merendi played on the Berkley boys varsity tennis team this year. He said, "Playing here is very different than in Italy, there are more chances to play as a team." He said playing as a team he bonded with teammates, which made playing easier. Merendi plans to pursue his talents by trying out for the club team next year at Michigan State University.

**ERICA FOX****GIRLS TENNIS**

Jake Rothman '14, Business/AD Manager

Hard working and dedication are both adjectives that have been used to describe the four year tenure of BHS girls varsity tennis star Erica Fox. Fox started playing tennis six years ago, after she lost interest in soccer. She proved to be a natural with a racket, making varsity her freshman year. Fox has been awarded the Coaches' Choice Award two years in a row for her commitment to the team. As a singles player, she has been given the 'most improved award' for her devotion to continuing to amp up her tennis game. Coach Leonard Waldman said, "She is the type of player who would go out there even if she was sick." This fall, Fox will be continuing her education in Oxford, Ohio at Miami University where she plans on playing tennis on their club team.

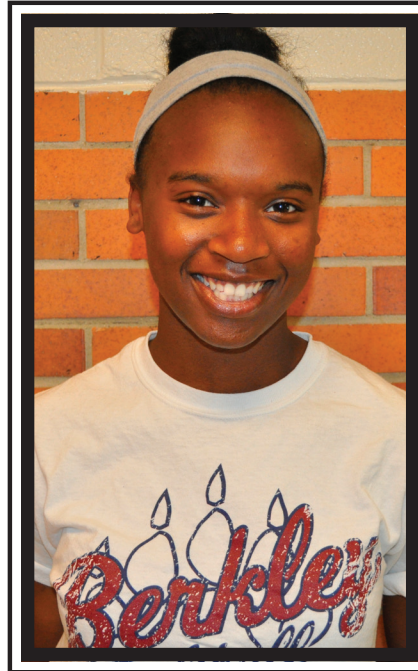


TAYLOR MORRISSEY

BASEBALL

Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

To Taylor Morrissey, Pop Lewis field served as a second home throughout his high school career. Along with being an extremely talented player, his leadership and commitment to the team made him a true standout. Friend and teammate, senior Brad Burke, described Morrissey as a player with “strong fundamentals, good mechanics, and a willingness to sacrifice his body for the play.” The entire Berkley baseball family will miss having number 13 at the heart of the batting order next year.



AARICA MCCRAY

SOFTBALL

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

The girls softball team is often not acknowledged as widely as they should be, especially with all of the talent presented by outstanding player Aarica McCray. McCray has been playing for ten years, and has shown exceptional talent in the sport. As a freshman she played on varsity, and then her sophomore year she played with noteworthy seniors like Emma Fernandez and Brittany Lines. McCray never imagined her skill level could ever measure up to theirs, but after two years of hard work and determination she has done just that. After playing for such an extended period of time, many athletes' passion for the game diminishes, but McCray insists that it not the case, and that it is still her “favorite thing to do.” Her love and dedication will continue on into college as she plans to be a walk on onto Delta College's team.

MICKY MCGOWAN

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor

Micky McGowan has been on the BHS swim and dive team since his freshman year. Describing his relationship with his fellow teammates, McGowan said, “The people on the team were the reason I kept coming back; it was a really fun team to be a part of.” McGowan ended his high school dive career on a high note, finishing fourth at the team's regional meet, and 25th at the state meet this year. McGowan will become a Golden Grizzly in the fall, attending Oakland University. Although he is not diving in college, McGowan will always have fond memories of being a member of the dive team at BHS.



NICOLE BUCCALO

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Captain Nicole Buccalo has been on the varsity swim team for all four years at BHS. In her senior season she made it to states as a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay, and also competed with fast times in the 50-yard freestyle. Buccalo's favorite moment from her four years on the team was the Rochester meet her sophomore year, when the team went in as the underdogs expecting to lose by a lot, but as Buccalo put it, “everybody busted out some really great swims.” Next fall Buccalo is attending the University of Michigan to study health sciences.

CHARLIE DRIKER-OHREN

CROSS COUNTRY

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Team captain Charlie Driker-Ohren's favorite parts of cross country are “spending times with the guys outside of practice and going to meets.” He also said he enjoys “running with everyone and watching them work hard and run as fast as they can.” After strong freshman and sophomore years, Driker-Ohren encountered a season-ending injury during his junior year; he then triumphantly rebounded and ran some of the teams' best times as a senior. Next fall Driker-Ohren is attending Hampshire College where he will continue to run cross country.



KYLE BRAUN

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

Running was always a hobby of Kyle Braun's. That was until sixth grade, when he started running competitively. His dedication and work ethic have helped him impress coaches and teammates on and off the track. Braun loves to “work hard, win, and have [his] mom watch [him].” Teammate Jason Taylor said he is one of “the greatest [he has] ever seen run track.” Taylor also said that Braun is “a great leader.” Braun's endurance, speed and determination have led him to his record times of 1.57.5 seconds in the 800, and 51.2 seconds in the 400, just merely 2 seconds off the BHS standing record. Though he does not plan to continue to competitively run track in college, he still will enjoy running around the campus of Grand Valley State University.

NATHAN VERTEL
BOYS SOCCER

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

Thirteen years ago, Nathan Vertel decided to start playing soccer, and to him, it was the best decision he could have made. Vertel has played for Force '93/'94, as well as the BHS varsity soccer team for the past two years. His favorite moments were playing soccer with his friends and creating long lasting memories. On the BHS team, he received the "Bear of the Year" award as well as an All-OAA status. Not only did he use his foot skills on the soccer field, but he also used his soccer skills as a punter for the BHS football team and was a team star on the rugby team. Vertel hopes to continue his soccer career either on an intramural or club team for the city of Marquette, where he will be attending college at Northern Michigan University.

**JULIE SHIELDS**
GIRLS SOCCER

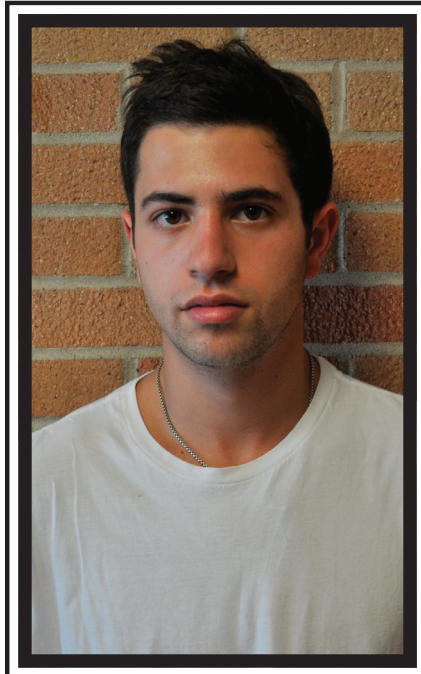
Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

Playing for any varsity sport is a tough feat, but Julie Shields has proven that she is more than able to handle the rigor of the sport, as she has been a varsity soccer player her entire high school career. Shields has played goalie since she was 10, but she started playing soccer 14 years ago. She said she began playing when her sister started to play and, "of course I wanted to be just like her." For three years straight, Shields has gone All-OAA and All-District; she was also captain for both her junior and senior years. Soccer has always shown Shields that, "hard work really does pay off." Next year, Shields will continue to bring her remarkable soccer skills to the Michigan campus of Northwood University.

**BRADLEY ZUCKER**
HOCKEY

Barret Hotz, '13, Photo Editor

Bradley Zucker's love for hockey began when he first saw the Detroit Red Wings play, and now, 12 years later, Zucker is one of the BHS varsity hockey team captains and has been awarded the team MVP. He has also been awarded with a spot on both All-OAA and All-metro teams. His favorite hockey memory was "winning the league championship as a senior." Although he has shown great success, Zucker does not plan to continue playing hockey when he starts school at the University of Michigan this upcoming fall.

**MARISSA KINNEY**
GIRLS GOLF

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

Aside from having not committed adultery, Marissa Kinney is essentially the Tiger Woods of BHS Girls Golf. Kinney birdied twice in an 18-hole tournament, achieved captain status after just one year on the BHS girls' golf team, and shot a 48 at Beachwoods Golf Course. Kinney has always made a point of encouraging her teammates through leading by example. When she's off the tee and observing her teammates, she's coaching and cheering. However, golf isn't just a competition for Kinney; it's an art of meditation. When she's had a stressful day Kinney can escape to a golf course for some serendipitous relaxation. Although Kinney will be attending Michigan Tech, which doesn't have an organized golf team, she plans to tee-up whenever possible.

**ANN DZIEDZIULA**
DANCE

Aaron Cohen '13, Co-Entertainment Editor

Aside from being a phenomenal dancer, Ann Dzedziula's leadership and dedication has set her apart and made her a star of the dance team. This year, she led the team as a captain, and amazed audiences with her beautiful moves. Her solo performance at her final recital was one of the most memorable and emotional dances of the evening. Everyone in attendance could feel her passion as she graced the BHS stage one last time. "Dance team was for sure the best part of high school," she said. "All of my best friends did it with me, and it was an awesome experience." Dzedziula plans to continue her education at Western Michigan University.

**FAN SHOUTOUTS TO SPORT STANDOUTS**

"KYLE BRAUN IS SO FAST. HE'S AMAZING!"
-SOPHOMORE SAM BYCK

"LUCAS HAMMERLE, I'M GOING TO MISS SEEING YOU ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD NEXT YEAR."
-JUNIOR ALEX AGBAY

"[OMAR SITTO] IS A REALLY GOOD FOOTBALL PLAYER. HE ALWAYS HAS LOVE AND PASSION, AND YOU CAN SEE THE PASSION WHEN HE PLAYS. I LOVE MY BROTHER."
-SOPHOMORE MASON SITTO

"KARSYN [BAKER] IS A TREMENDOUS ATHLETE."
-SENIOR HAYDEN ALPERT

So we keep waiting, waiting on the world to change

Alison Jones '13, Incoming Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Life is all about waiting—waiting to grow up, waiting for our time, and waiting for that certain something that may never happen. But what if we wait too long, and one day regret all the missed opportunities we should have taken. Since day one we have all heard that we are only given this one life, and that even though we might not have everything in life, we have to make do with what we have and make it the best life possible. We all have enormous opportunities in front of us, and we have the privileges that some kids would kill for. We need to capitalize on those and make this life the best we can. Not to sound too cliché, but life is short, and if we all do not make the best of what we have here in front of us, we may miss it.

We are still children, whether or not we want to believe it. We still live under the rules of our parents, and even thanks to the ridiculous driving laws, we are forced to be home at an hour that seems ungodly to us. But yet, there is no need to rush the processes of life; one must let the cards fall where they may, and those are risks that we all have to take in order to be successful in life. There needs be the opportunity to make mistakes, and to be totally childish without having to face the repercussions of our actions.

Coming in as freshmen, one could never have imagined the immense impact that a little town in Michigan would have on his or her life. We were young and naïve and wanted nothing more than to go back to the days of nap times and snacks. But now, here we are, years later, and being line leader and having outdoor recess is being replaced with AP testing and applying for colleges. For those pessimists out there who say they hate school, or that Berkley has taught them nothing, I dare to call your bluff. This high school has given us all more than just an education; it has molded us into the people we are today because of the people we have encountered. Every person here has had a hand in molding you in some way, and has somehow made an imprint on us all. Without them you may not have become the same person you are today.

With all this waiting and restrictions placed on us, I think one might forget about what is right in front of them. We all need to embrace the fact that every year is one more year closer to becoming adults and living in the “real world.” Soon we will all be going off in our own directions, following our own dreams, living our own lives. But first, I think we need to take part in the things that will soon only be memories. Go to all the parties, participate in senior skip day, and go all out for spirit week. These things will make all the waiting seem worth it in the end.

So here it is. I challenge the class of 2013 and any class to follow, to make this coming year even better than the last and to live in the present because we all know it will be over sooner rather than later. Whether or not one chooses to accept it, exactly one year from now a good majority of us will be on our own, living our own lives, and without the constant supervision of our parents. Let us, class of 2013 and beyond, make this coming year our best and most unforgettable. Our lives are too short and too fragile to be cautious with our actions. We need to make the best of our lives with the resources that we have.

Don't hit rock bottom, high-five it: Learning and moving on from your mistakes

Veronica Marchese '13, Incoming Assistant Editor-in-Chief

We all have expectations. Maybe about how we will graduate high school, meet the guy or girl of our dreams or something as simple as what our day will be like. These great expectations, however, are not always met. *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens, is a novel that follows the life of a young boy named Pip, as he grows up and experiences the many expectations pressed upon him from his 19th century upper-class society. However, he does not measure up to these expectations, ultimately leading to a depressing ending (depending on which version you read). Although I am sure I was one of the very few who really read the entire book, it should be clear the theme of the novel, and that is failed expectations. Now, dear reader, before you think to yourself, “Hey, I’ve read plenty of articles about failed expectations about the expectations of high school years.” You have not yet read this one. For mine is different. I ask you to ponder the question: who is the reason behind these failed expectations, and who sets us up for our inevitable failures as young adults?

I’ve always been consciously aware of the weight placed upon students’ and teenagers’ shoulders to make the “right decisions.” As you leave your home to go to a party or a friend’s house, just as you have one foot out the door, your parents may say to you exuberantly, “Make good choices!” We ignore them because we think of ourselves as smart teenagers, who would of course never make any bad decisions. But time and time again we hear about others who screw up, and do make those dreaded bad decisions. So where did they go wrong? Well, I for one blame the parents and like-minded adults who put the emphasis on making those good decisions. They are setting a lot of kids up for failure because they expect more than what is realistic. With society the way it is, pressuring kids to try new things, everyone is set up to make at least one bad decision in their life. We should at least be allowed one or two big mistakes, because let’s face it, we all have flaws, and we all experience failure at one point or another.

At school this failure is not so different, teachers expect you to always complete your homework, do well on tests, and follow the rules set before you. But sometimes your dog eats your homework. Sometimes you forget to study for a test and attend a sporting event instead, and sometimes you just plain don’t care. And weren’t rules meant to be broken anyway? Often times one needs to text their “mom” about what their lunch plans are, and more often than not, students need a break from all the homework they are given. Although I am making a generalization about students, since we all have at least one class with that perfect student who does what he or she is told and makes everyone else look bad, I know that these mishaps are true for at least half of the students at BHS. School has contributed to our many failures. Failure that is looked down upon by all those who ultimately contribute to it.

So what can one do about all this failure? Embrace it, of course. Like Miley Cyrus so brilliantly said, “Nobody’s perfect,” and “Everybody makes mistakes, everybody has those days.” Everybody does make mistakes, but the point is that you have to learn from them. If you procrastinate a paper or project and don’t do so well on it because you waited till the last minute (i.e. globalization research paper for many juniors), hopefully you then use it as a learning experience and won’t do so again. If you forget about a test and don’t like what grade you receive, optimistically, you may remember to study ahead next time. If you text your “mom” in class and have your phone taken away, with any luck you’ll either remember to text her before/after class, or hide your phone a little better (I know, you were totally just fixing your zipper right?). These are insignificant in the larger scheme of life, and we may all have much bigger failures we must grow from as we move away from high school and onto bigger and better things. But here is where we can learn and grow from our mistakes and failures.

In many ways we will all fail, but we must know that what we have here is special and these tests we endure are just like those we will be expected to overcome later in life; the ones that test who you are and who you can be. These are the tests that cause us to rise above our failures to look inside ourselves to see whether we meet our own expectations, not those put onto us by others. You will make mistakes and fail in high school, in college, and in life. But the harder you fall, the further you will rise. So take chances, learn from those mistakes, and in the end, because these mistakes shape who we are, we may just find out they shaped who we can become and who we all strive to be.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR & ENGLISH TEACHER

14 THE SPECTATOR

NOT A GIRL, NOT YET A WOMAN: TEENAGE MATURATION HALTED BY ADULT FEAR

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Incoming Editor-in-Chief

Entering high school is often interpreted as a milestone when we exit our juvenile phase and begin our ascent into adulthood. As highschoolers we are undoubtedly given much larger responsibilities, trust, and freedom than we would've ever been handed in middle school. But, through our evolution into adulthood, a contradiction between what we are supposed to do and how we are to achieve that arises. It appears that although we are exiting our so-called 'awkward' phase, we enter another age of uncertainty. Here, our role of adulthood versus childhood begins to teeter the line as adult figures make growing up and maturing more difficult by contradicting themselves and thus confusing our role.

It's possible that a large part of the student body has had some encounter with police forces. Recently, a large number of 17-year-old students were mipped (charged with minor in possessions). They were told that when breathalyzed, if any number registered on the breathalyzer, they were going to be taken to the police station and charged, as adults, with MIPs. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but does it not seem a bit adverse to give an "adult" a ticket specified for minors?

If we really are adults, then why are we not allowed to partake in 'adult' activities? Alcohol is an obvious part of adult society. People meet each other at bars, parents go out for drinks, and almost all houses have a liquor cabinet. If government officials believe that teenagers are too young to drink as well as handle the responsibility of drinking then they cannot so readily refer to us as adults, as we've been halted in a portion of our imitation of adult-like behavior and thus maturation.

As generations go, it seems older people generally believe we need to be harshly punished when we mess up, or otherwise we'll never learn. However, when most teens are given such reprimanded so sternly we often do not feel remorse but rather anger towards adult figures. If they really want to teach us a lesson, an honest explanation and discussion is all that we require. Something such as how at our age our brains are not fully developed, and can therefore not fully comprehend the detrimental consequences which can stem from alcohol both physically and emotionally.

As we try to accomplish and parallel what we see as adult behavior, we are often halted and told that we lack experience to properly execute said task, and should therefore stick to tasks better suited for our age group. But how are we to grow and gain experience if we are deemed too young to handle it? It is a paradox that ultimately leads to this never-ending clash between our generation and our parent's.

Although handing such responsibilities to a group of inexperienced teenagers is scary, it is something that is necessary if society elects to call them adults. Most teenagers are excited about immersing themselves in the world, but are often only halted by such adult figures as they deem them too young to understand the complexity of the issue.

All we want is to be heard and to be treated how we believe we should be treated. But, in order for this ability to be given to us, we cannot rely on our parents to always explain to us right from wrong. We have to become more accountable for ourselves and stop giving adult figures reasons to place doubt in us. We all must become more self-aware and accountable as well as compelled to our mistakes. Only through this can we consider ourselves allowed the ability to describe the perplexing role our overseers place upon us.

Many things we do at our age are some what allowed by our semi-adult freedom while simultaneously being restricted by our other child-like status. We're allowed to drive, but only until 10'o clock. We're allowed to have our own opinions, but not argue them against our parents. We can choose what we want to do, but if our parents would rather us do something else, it is that which we must do. We are only allowed freedom and independence to an extent, and if society truly wishes us to grow into well-bred adults, both sides have to come to a resolution. After we've continuously proven ourselves able to handle the pressures of adulthood, it is only proper and supportive to our evolutionary status that we can stop seesawing between two worlds and are respectively given the adult social status that comes along with the title.

THE LAST LESSON: ENGLISH TEACHER IMPARTS FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM

Natalie Taylor, English Teacher

Over the course of the next few weeks, every adult you know will be doling out advice as you get ready to embark on this next phase of your life. This column is no different except for the fact that I am absolutely not the one giving the advice. You see, if I know one thing for sure it's that I know very little. I know it seems like us teachers spend our days trying to impart our wisdom on you, but the truth of the matter is, we're getting schooled on things just as much as you are. So I can't give you advice, but lucky for you I know the absolute best place to look. Here are four incredibly important things to remember as you prepare to conquer the universe. Shockingly enough, they come from the one place where all truth exists: books.

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view. . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

—Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

This world is full of problems and if you ask me, most of those problems, big and small, basically boil down to the fact that people do not understand each other. You are about to leave Berkley High School and meet all sorts of new and interesting people and hopefully you will become a part of the group that works to make this planet more peaceful instead of more hateful. But we really can't do much of anything until we take Atticus's advice. As simple as it sounds, it's the one thing we fail to do most. Before you make a judgment or start to argue, take time to consider the point of view of someone else. Take advantage of opportunities where you can learn about someone else's way of life.

"It's uh known fact. . . you got tuh go there to know there."

—Janie in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston

We don't teach this book at BHS, but hopefully you'll be lucky enough to read it at some point in your academic career. It's basically about this girl who starts off in a small town and doesn't really know a lot about anything—love, relationships, independence, etc.—and this gem of advice really does embody "the work as a whole." I had to read this book my senior year of high school and I have never forgotten this quote. If you want to know about a place, metaphorical or physical, the only way to truly understand it is if you see it for yourself. You can read about it all you want, listen to people tell stories all day long, but if you really want to know, you have to put yourself in the thick of it. So do it. Buy the plane ticket, train ticket, megabus ticket and go somewhere and learn about something so you can come back and tell your own stories.

"Cuss and swear and hear the poetry of folks talkin'."

—Jim Casey in *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

Did Mrs. Taylor just tell us to swear? Did you really need my permission? First of all, as a side note, this quote is taken out of context for the needs of this column. Character Jim Casey says he's going to go out and he's "Gonna cuss and swear;" but he's not necessarily telling you to do this. But I am (well, sort of). For four years you've been made to speak a certain way in class, write a certain way in papers, and understand a language of literature that perhaps you never became fluent in. But that's all over now, so when you do move on to a bigger place than this, use your own voice, not the voice of your teachers, your parents, or your friends, but the one you've been developing for the last 18 years. And don't forget the other half of the quote; it's not just your voice that matters, it's the voices of the people you meet along the way too. Not the stuff in classrooms or lecture halls, but everything else in between. That's where the real poetry is.

"It's our choices Harry, that show us who we truly are, far greater than our abilities."

—Albus Dumbledore in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling

For the last four years, you've been graded, ranked, evaluated, and separated into different classes all based on your alleged ability. And even getting into college depended on how good your numbers were or how many points you earned on this test or that. But guess what? None of those numbers really matter anymore. Sure, they may matter in an academic sense, and don't get me wrong, this is not the last time you will be evaluated based on a score, but in terms of being a good person and living a fulfilling life, nothing is more irrelevant than all of those numbers. Just as Dumbledore says, it's not your abilities that are the most important, but it is the choices you make. It's whom you decide to help and what you decide to stand for that makes all the difference in this world. When I think about what we learn about the dark side humans in literature and history, I admit it can be a little scary. When you get down to it, we can be one mean species. But we don't all have to be that way. And the good news is that being a compassionate person has nothing to do with scores or grades, but it has everything to do with the choices you make.

In conclusion, class of 2012, you are an awesome group and we can't wait to hear where you go once you cross that stage. As a staff, we can only hope that the next phase of your life brings you healthy challenges, happiness, and experiences where you can grow as a person and find success. And hopefully, you'll find a few good books along the way. Congratulations, seniors! We wish you all the best!



Sam Lubinecky '12,
Managing Editor &
Layout Director

Tips:

1 Be polite. The more polite you act, the more likely you are going to be able to get away with things. If you are a trouble maker obviously teachers, administrators and hall monitors will have their eyes out for you. So why put yourself in that position? Plus the administrators are actually nice if you're not a rude "brat."

2 Be happy. Because being happy is the best pay back

you could ever give to someone. Just believe me on this one. No further explanation is needed.

3 Be who YOU are, not who others want you to be. You are going to be judged anyway, and most likely people will know your every move because well, it's Berkley and everyone knows everything about everyone. So why not do what you want to do?

4 Do ~~yearbook~~ or journalism. Stop listening to people who say it's too much work; life is work. Obviously they will not be successful if they have the mantra. Joining was the best decision I made all of high school. You are joining not only a class, but a family as well. Plus it looks better than some random blow off class on college transcripts or job applications. Do not get me wrong, it is so not for everyone, but if you are a hard and dedicated worker, try it out!

5 Do not conform. Seriously being "popular" is the definition of overrated. Why be something you are not? Not only it is annoying to watch, but you most likely are not being yourself and that is disgusting.

6 Say what you want and mean what you say. It is way too confusing to have to try and decipher what people are always trying to say. Not only is this a huge mistake, but it has the potential to ruin relationships. Trust me, I would know.

7 Avoid drama. Well some people at Berkley get crazy sometimes, but you can't control other people's actions. You don't want to get involved with something that is not worth the fight. You never know your house may even get vandalized for no reason if you wind up in the wrong crowd.

8 Don't fail a class. Most people are shocked when I tell them this, but yes, I, Samantha Lubinecky, failed a class. My sophomore year I was diagnosed with anxiety and it was extremely difficult to deal with. I was always nauseous and would have random anxiety attacks, and it would sometimes even get to the point where I would pass out. It was horrible and I missed a lot of school. All of my teachers were cooperative and helpful in every way they could, and I thank them so much, all except for one. I guess a legit illness is not a good enough reason to miss school. Well it even got to the point where this teacher would not let me take the final because I was absent. So off to summer school I went, and if it weren't for a girl I met there, Uarda, I probably would have cried myself to sleep every night. My case is different from most cases, but regardless, don't fail.

Shout outs:

These people have been absolutely amazing to me during my high school years. I have no idea what I would do with out them, and I am so grateful they are in my life. Every single one of them has deserved this shout out and I cannot even begin to express how much I love them.

Teachers:

Mr. Weingarden: If it were not for you helping me at lunch like three times a week, let's face it I probably would not have passed your class. You are too funny Weinsizzle. Hopefully you will have my little turd sister Malindi next year. I will miss you!

Mrs. Matthews: Oh Big Momma, you are truly like a second mom. You are so strong and I love you so much. I will miss you and definitely have my Big Momma withdrawals next year at Western.

Ms. Mullins: Um what would we do with out you? Oh that's right probably burst into flames. You, my dear, are brilliant. Not only do I love you, but the whole staff does. You rock, even though you have a secret obsession with *The Vampire Diaries*, oops did I just say that? :)

T Hayes: Even though you are not here anymore, you kicked my butt and I can never repay you. My writing improved drastically when you were here. I also love that you have the ability to insult someone with a smile. I will continue to miss you.

Friends:

Stephannie Ekola: Well you practically are my sister, I love you so much and everyday senior year I missed you! Summer 2012 is going to rock!

Katie Stewart & Cat Lawler: You guys are amazing and I cannot wait for Western next year :)

Emily Malmsten: You have always been there for me, no matter if I am locked out of my house at random times or in hysterics and need comforting. I love you and refuse to say I will miss you because I refuse to believe we won't see each other in college.

Elana Price: Oh Lanz, I love you, you are too cute. I'm sure I will see you in the streets of New York one day or you will just run your own fashion something!

Lindsay McFern: You should not be on the road, but I still love you. You are the definition of a goof ball and I love it. Go to Western, you won't regret it, plus I would see your gorgeous face everyday. Oh and don't worry about you know who, "it" will end up alone because all people do is use that person. I love you!

Meghan Steingold: We use to want to kill each other, hahaha oh those were quite the days. But we have grown to love each other and I will miss you. I'm sure one day I will come across an article you wrote in the *New York Times* and possibly even see your name under the Editor-in-Chief position. I will miss you megdirt.

Becca Luetke: Little beccers, I love youuu! Don't get too freaky on the dance floor at State :). I will miss you, you have always been there for me when I needed

you and I appreciate that.

Sophie Bruza: So pretty much you will do amazing next year and I have total faith in you. I am so happy things worked out for you this year and you got a very happy ending :). You are too funny and I will eternally miss you.

Molly Austin: I can't say anything except you are actually the funniest person I know. I LOVE YOU FOOL.

Family:

Malindi Lubinecky: Leaving you and Chupee will be the hardest thing I will ever have to do. Although I don't show emotion often I am crying on the inside when I think that I can't nap with you and the chupester every day. We will Skype as much as possible, do not worry! Love you TILD!!

Katherine Lubinecky: You little turd you, I love you so much. I will miss you at Western and I expect you to take over my duties to drive mom and dad crazy... just kidding. Be good!

Yearbookies: You guys are my second family. I love you soooooo much, even though I do yell at you guys sometimes, you could never disappoint me. For those of you who are staying, you will do great next year. Sophie you will be a great editor and don't go easy on them ;)

Journalism Staff: Oh you guys. We are quite the bunch. Clarissa, you will be great next year and Alison and Veronica you will do fantastic as well :). With as great as a leader as Ms. Mullins, you guys will be great. I love all of you. Good luck next year!

Mom: Mommy, what would I do with out you? Yes, we have our moments, but you've dealt with all my crap over the years and I am so grateful. I know you are scared for me to go to Western, but I will be fine. I will miss you, but I will only be two hours and a simple phone call away. I love you and can't wait to get your "care packages" in college.

Dad: We have also have your good times and not so good times, but I am so happy where our relationship is today and I hope it remains that way. I love you so much dad and I am so happy for you and Susan. She is a great woman who brings out the best in you. Thank you for all you have done for me over the years daddy. I love you and will miss you when I am at Western.

Susan, John & Shannon: You guys are truly amazing people! I love you all so much and am so fortunate to have you as my family. Susan, thank you so much for everything you have done for me. You are such a generous and caring person and I appreciate it. You and my dad are perfect and I am blessed to have you as a step mom.

PEACE OUT BERKLEY, HELLO WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY! Go Broncos!

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MUCHOS GRACIAS LA ESCUELA DE BHS:
MANY THANKS TO THE SCHOOL OF BHS

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

I was raised in a family that stressed proper manners and polite etiquette. Saying thank you is in my blood, and I guarantee that I will be the first person to say, "God bless you," when you sneeze. If you wipe out in the middle of the hallway, because you tripped on a loose piece of ham, then I will be there to give you a hand (and take the ham if you're not going to eat it). And when I leave a place, gosh darn it I give proper thanks where it is due. That is why I feel it is my duty as a civilized person in society to give BHS its gratification for my four years spent at this institution, Thank-You-Note style.

Thank you, bathroom stalls:

You have always given me a peaceful place to not only perform important business, but to also update my fantasy baseball lineup for the week. It is the time spent in you that I truly get the most useful work of the day done. I will never forget the time we spent together.

Thank you, gym class:

You showed me that I do not have to be the worst athlete in the room. After years of winning participation and sportsmanship awards, I can finally be a third round pick. Maybe even a second round pick, if I get lucky and someone tears their meniscus trying to dunk a rugby ball.

Thank you, hall monitors:

Because of you I never feel in danger in the hallways. I feel comfortable nuzzled under the wing of Rick and Paula. You two run the good cop/bad cop routine better than Phil Jackson runs the triangle offense.

Thank you, LMC:

You have always been a special treat whenever my class rolls through. There is nothing better than cooling off in the library when the rest of the sweltering student body is boiling in the heat. I've never checked a book out of you, but you checked out my heart.

Thank you, readers of my work:

I don't know if you have enjoyed my work, or even if you exist. I have laid my heart and soul into my articles, and if you really are reading, I appreciate it. Although, you probably don't exist, and I have been talking to myself like a homeless person tripping out on Mescaline.

Thank you, fish in the hallway:

You are the best place in the school to stop, stare, and wonder about the mysteries of the world. It is your pointless, repetitive lives that make me realize humans are far more superior to our aquatic counterparts. Have fun swimming in circles for the rest of your lives idiots.

Thank you, teachers:

Without your guidance, I would have never realized the point of high school, and life in general. You showed me that I can be anything I want to be in my future, and if that doesn't work out I can get a teaching degree.

Thank you, hand dryers:

Just because you don't really work, and my hands always seem to be just as wet as they started after I use you, it doesn't mean that you aren't special. I will never forget the piercingly loud noise that erupts out of your nozzle after I wash my hands. Don't ever let the absorbance power of paper towel get you down.

Thank you, 3G internet:

You have provided me with endless entertainment during my tenure at BHS. If not for you, I would have been stuck actually paying attention in class, but instead I was free to visit any and all websites known to man.

Thank you, leggings:

Although sometimes your powers can cause confusion, you have created the dream for all of us hormonal teenage boys. You transformed the average rear end into bootys teetering on the edge of Kardashian size. Thanks for all of the good times walking in the hallways over these four years.

Thank you, underclassmen:

You have given me an advanced warning for the utter demise of society. Pretty soon the entire world is going to be consumed with unnecessary cursing and bullying, and thanks to you I will not enter the future with blinders on. I will heed your warnings and only become friends with figurine munchkins, instead of people.

Thank you, Class of 2012:

As our time together comes to a close, I realize that high school was simply a stepping point. I plan to use my teachings from our many endeavors to elevate into a better person. Thanks for giving me the ability to look back at my days in high school with a smile.

LESSONS NOT FOUND IN A
TEXTBOOK, OR BREASTFEEDING 101

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

As I near high school graduation, I'm discovering that I've actually learned a few things these past four years. The primary lesson of which is the following: high school is seemingly just like the controversial May 21 TIME magazine cover, in that it is much like breastfeeding.

High schools, like BHS, might boast about their fitness as the authoritative body in public education, but if they resemble anything within the human anatomy at all, it's voluptuous bosoms. Students attend class daily, where their teachers (male and female) proceed to breastfeed them knowledge. Sucking nutritious information from their high school, students build strong bones from the rich information their teachers' breast-milk lectures and lessons provide. Although the breastfed type of learning common to high school students is essential for higher learning later on, their school's breast milk is not enough for society's insatiable appetite, which demands lessons more readily applicable to real life scenarios. Without a supplementary diet, rich in lessons digested from one's own personal experiences, an unfortified academic education is largely useless.

Nearly everyone in the education field would agree with the final point of my metaphor: High school academics don't teach one so much as his or her personal experiences. After I established this as the premise to my educational pursuits, I began revisiting my personal experiences, because I wished to share my life lessons in my final *Spectator* column.

If nothing else, I fancy myself a well-rounded student, who understands the depths and limits of his knowledge and wisdom. I confess that I've made plenty of mistakes these past four years—just ask my parents—but those experiences have no doubt been when I've learned the most. Whether my readers agree or disagree with my lessons, I hope they will hear my message, helping themselves and others to avoid making similar mistakes, and improving the overall quality of the high school experience for all.

1. Avoid what I call "Sophomoric Syndrome."

Teenagers have high capacities for stupidity as well as greatness. Once we become high school students, we know just enough to develop the conceded and arrogant attitudes common amongst teenagers. Which leads me to my next lesson...

2. Dealing with systems of power and their representatives (in two parts):

Part 1: Listen more, speak less.

We all have conflicts with authority figures occasionally. Before we dismiss or accept their opinions, one should at least entertain their ideas. Once we have all the information necessary to make an informed decision, we can choose the proper course of action.

Part 2: Work the system as it exists, but don't fear rebelling when it's necessary.

In some situations it may serve us well to rebel against imposing systems of power, and in those

cases one must act courageously and not be shy of controversy. However, when one rebels in excess they're stirring arguments and frustration that may be more destructive to his or her self than the system was to them originally. Besides, the ones in charge of most systems typically don't give a care about outside opinions, which makes it difficult to discuss reformations about them.

3. High school is a great, big experiment.

During this lull in serious responsibility within one's life, as well as the legal amnesty that comes with being a minor, high school students' are in prime condition for trying new things. One may want to proceed with caution when exploring strange and unfamiliar territory, but never allow one's fear of the unknown keep his or her self from exploring high school life's many novelties.

4. Don't ignore the opportunities before you, embrace them.

Participation is a means as well as an enjoyable end in itself. Need I quote Ferris Bueller? "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't look around every once in a while, you could miss it." Don't let pride and prejudice impede your pursuit of happiness.

5. "Happiness [is] only real when shared," Alexander Supertramp from *Into the Wild* said. And I agree. Solitude may be great for getting work done, and a difficult commodity to come by in the current e-social age, but it makes for terrible company.

6. Self-respect is the most important kind of respect.

There will always be outside judgments cast on our character. If we give into the many pressures of conformity, then we compromise our fantastic features that make us into the beautiful, unique people we truly are.

7. Over thy self, the individual is sovereign; which is to say, you're self-responsible.

Although you might think so sometimes, your parents don't control you. Your school, despite their best efforts, has little to no true power over you. Even your friends, who perhaps influence your character more than anyone else during high school, don't control you. Only you control you.

8. Above all else, be happy. There's nothing else to ask for but happiness in this life. The question is how do we make ourselves happy, or what makes us the happiest.

Those are my lessons. Accept or deny them—I honestly don't care—but please at least ponder them a moment. If you choose to accept them, congratulations. You've taken a major step in detaching yourself from the great boob that is our high school. Consequently, in learning from my lessons, however, you've also just latched onto another breast, mine. That's the funny thing about education—it's a lot to do with breast feeding.