

# SPECTATOR

OCTOBER 2011



Halloween 3-5



Homecoming 10-11



The Back Page is Back



Can you find all of the Berkley Bears?

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## OCTOBER HOROSCOPES

Sam Lubinecky '12, Managing Editor and Layout Director

### Aries: March 21 - April 19

There will be plenty of changes this month, and you will become more involved with your family and your love life will boom. You will be getting your flirt on quite a bit, but be careful not to lead people on. Also, for a few weeks you will be less aggravated and deal with obnoxious people in a mature way.

### Taurus: April 20 - May 20

This month you will possibly become overwhelmed with school work, just keep your cool and keep paddling through the raging river. A positive for this month is that there will be minimal drama and lots of parties and/or events. Just keep your priorities in check and you will get along just fine.

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This month can be described with one word: love. Whether you are giving or receiving love it will be present. Don't get caught up in the new attention you are receiving, you may come off as superficial.

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

If your family has been going through a rough patch lately, everything will soon be smoothed over. You will feel closer to your family and actually enjoy your time with them. You may be asked to make tough decisions this month, don't forget to ask for advice.

### Leo: July 23 - August 23

Throw a party! Get together the community and make it enjoyable for everyone. Be the life of the party and settle everyone's frustration with the lack of social events. You'll be very eager to jump into new projects whether it be school related or re-decorating your room.

### Virgo: August 24 - September 23

You will be low on cash this month so spend your money wisely, go home for lunch instead of going out, skip the Starbucks in the morning, and just hang out at home instead of going to see a movie. You will have to make a lot of decisions about your future, just slow down and reevaluate all of your options until you make a choice you will not be regretting for a long time to come.

### Libra: September 24 - October 22

Be confident in everything you do this month. Others will come to you for advice and you will seem to have the answers for everything. Your friends are starting to feel like you are distancing yourself, but the truth is you are just busy. Let them know you still are there for them by going out and doing something together as a group.

### Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Physically and mentally you'll feel like a new person, revived, refreshed and renewed. You feel like you have to please people at all times and you need to come to the realization that sometimes you have to put yourself first.

### Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

Friends and parties will be the main focus for you during this month. Your love life will be turned upside down and you just want to get your mind off things. Don't lose site of what is important. Set goals for yourself and focus.

### Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

Try working on your image, you may come off as cold to some people. Just try and deal with people for a while and a reward is sure to come your way. Tensions at home will arise making it even harder for you to stay calm. Just breathe and it will be over sooner than you think.

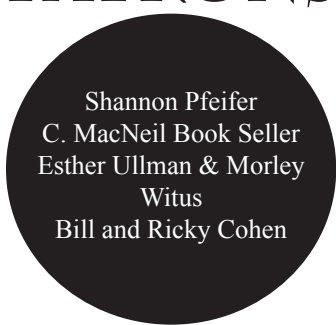
### Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

Spring break is so far, yet so close. Start looking for new places, it doesn't matter if you're a senior or not you should definitely still have a good spring break. If you can afford to go somewhere exotic and provides a lot of culture, then do it. You will be greatly rewarded. School will be extremely important to you this month, don't lose the motivation.

### Pisces February 19 - March 20

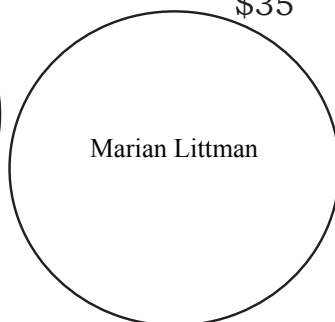
You will be involved in many bonding activities this month. Be selfless and put others before yourself. You will be extremely busy this month so make sure to manage your stress for the sake of your health. A nervous breakdown is the last thing you need this month.

## PATRONS



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\$20

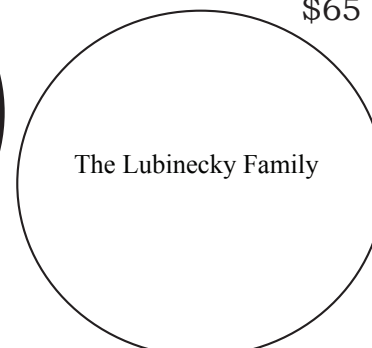
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**Gold**  
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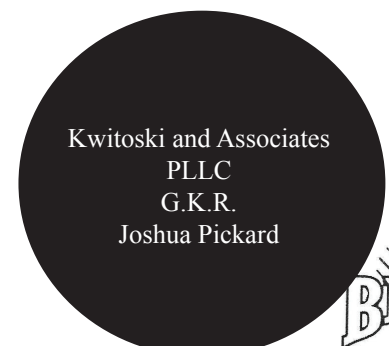


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## Boosters benefit music department

Lenie Siegel '14, Freelance Writer



Extra fall funds support the students and staff of the Berkley Music Department. Autumn for most students means football games and homecoming, however, for band, orchestra, and choir students it is all about the Benjamins. With budget cuts looming statewide, music programs are particularly at risk.

Without a performance art component at BHS, the diversity of the student population diminishes. Creative futures for some students would not be realized. Sacrifices will be made with the lack of funds.

The Berkley Instrumental Boosters (BIB), the fundraising arm of the Berkley Music Department, conducts fundraising events at the start of the school year. Tag Days, in which students perform at various community sites in exchange for cash, Entertainment Book sales, and a fruit and nut sale, are three of the fundraising opportunities the BIB organizes during the year. Sophomore violinist Ella Schodowski has been participating in these boosters for six years. "You get



BHS juniors Brandan Banks and Nick Bauer help the bear stay alive by helping him fundraise.

to compete to see who raises the most money with their partner. We don't realize it, but by competing we raise a lot more money, and it makes it fun," Schodowski said.

The Music Department benefits students in various ways. Orchestra teacher, Mr. John Robertson, is an 11-year veteran at both the middle and high school levels. "BIB helps us raise money to buy instruments and music, and also contributes quite a bit of money to take trips," Robertson said.

He also spoke about the sacrifices the department would have to make without BIB's contributions, including festival performances, uniforms, recording equipment, and music stands. "Fundraising pays for most of what we do," Robertson said. Students, teachers, and community members can participate in the upcoming fundraisers to help. Buy fruit and nuts or come to hear students perform at local businesses; any amount of support is needed. Bringing in the big bucks is crucial to keep this performing arts program running.

Photo by Barret Hotz

# BLOOD RED ROAD

## COMES TO BHS



Jake Rothman '14, Business Manager

MOIRA YOUNG

On Oct. 16 the writer of *Blood Red Road*, Moira Young came to BHS to discuss her book and the great success it is having on a national level.

In the Collaborative Center, Young shared her thoughts on the unique book she penned and dug into her personal redemption story.

Success wasn't always easy for Young as it is now though. She has experienced a very long and hard journey; somewhat similar to the one the main character in her book, Saba, went through.

As a kid in Vancouver, Young always had a deep connection to writing. When she was nine, Young even wrote her own book titled *Heirloom Mystery*. Though the book was never published, the story showed Young's passion for writing at a young age.

As she progressed into college, Young started to distance herself from her writing. Much to the objection of her father, who was intent on a law degree, Young graduated with a history degree. However, she became dissatisfied with history and decided to go to drama school. Young then became an aspiring actor, confident she had found a permanent occupation.

Even with the passion for acting, Young's acting dream eventually faltered. She then pursued opera singing with a group, and they toured the United Kingdom and France. "It was worse than my acting career," Young said referring to her failed opera career.

After years of unsuccessful aspirations, Young returned to her first

love: writing. Young went back to school in 2003 to pursue her passion; her first class was a writing for children course.

Soon after came Young's push to keep on writing, her critique group. "I wouldn't have been writing today if not from my support group," Young said. They pushed her to her outer edges of writing and eventually pushed Young to publish.

In 2006, Young started on what would end up being her first book titled *Blood Red Road*. The writing of the story is a journey in its self. She got the idea, by asking the question: what if our future world were severely devastated by excess carbon emissions? Young started an original book off that idea named *Dark Eden*. She eventually tossed most of that thought aside after only 1500 words.

She started the book over multiple times, with different twists in each one, before the idea finally flowed together. Then four and a half years and many revisions later, the final product of *Blood Red Road* was at last completed.

Now Young's book is highly acclaimed and being reviewed by the *New York Times*. Signed copies of the book are available at the Book Beat Book Store. Not to mention the rights to the movie have already been optioned to director Ridley Scott. It's safe to say that in the end Young's long journey paid off. Now she just has to write books two and three of the thrilling trilogy.

4 THE SPECTATOR

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## Overcoming the struggles of being new to high school



Jake Rothman '14, Business and Ad Manager

The first couple weeks of high school can be an intimidating time for freshmen. The fast pace and pressure of high school can wear down on the new ninth graders, cause many of them to fall behind.

The challenge of adjusting to the more difficult classes and increased homework load can be overwhelming. For some freshmen this adjustment was easy, but many others found the high school

routine difficult.

Freshman Gian Bonello had great grades in middle school, but he said "the first few weeks of high school have been a struggle." Bonello points out the drastic difference in the amount of homework in the beginning weeks of high school, compared to his walk in the park in middle school.

Freshman Adam Edery also said the first few weeks at BHS have been much harder than in middle school; he believes he has received 25 percent more homework every night than in eighth grade.

However, he and Bonello have found the key to facing their homework dilemma. It is to balance their time around the amount of homework. "Although managing time can be tough," Bonello said. The increased homework has cut into his time for friends, family and tennis. Edery believes the lack of time has pushed him to stay focused and get his work done. The two freshmen have both realized with the responsibility of high school comes the dedication necessary to succeed.

Another common struggle freshmen experience is the demand to keep everything organized. With the amount of material being covered and the quick pace of the classes, remembering every little quiz can be challenging. Bonello says that keeping up with test dates and homework assignments in high school is much more difficult than in middle school. "The high pressure to get good grades contributes to the organization issues," Bonello said. Edery feels differently: he thinks that the quick pace has not affected his ability to keep materials separated and information organized.

It could be expected that the new atmosphere of high school will become second nature to the freshmen. The two ninth graders feel they will get used to the new environment.

Bonello thinks the workload will ease up as the year progresses, while Edery expects the workload to remain just as difficult. As the school year moves on, both of them and many other freshmen, hope they will receive the stability in the high school atmosphere they all strive for.

## Drumline has intensity, skills



Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

Starting last winter, the BHS drumline set out a major change. The BHS drumline, having only one new member, can strive for bigger and better things. Junior, Zachary Lask said, "When you are more experienced you can move on to the more difficult things both musically and technically."

Section leader Ryan Levy and the rest of the drumline brings a skill level and intensity like no other in Berkley drumline history. With cadences (drum cheers), the Michael Ross era, (yes Vice Principal Mr. Michael Ross), to new cadences written by current members, the vast diversity of sounds and styles the current drumline plays is extensive.

Along with cadences, stick tricks and other theatrics are the new focal points of pep assemblies and halftime shows. In order to make performances more exciting, Levy takes his own ideas and those of other members into account in the planning and practicing stages. "Drummers should show off," Lask said.

To improve skill and technique, the drumline adds at least two morning rehearsals with percussion expert and teacher Adam James. They have weekly percussion workshops in the winter and Friday pre-game sectionals, on top of daily band rehearsals.

Former member of the line, Ross says that when he was on the drumline they were "a lot worse" than the current drumline. When he was a member, the instrumentation was different. The drumline, as he said had "about four snares, a lot of cymbals and only one tenor player." The current drumline consists of two snares, senior Levy and junior Ethan Sines; two quad players, senior Erin Desmand and junior Mitchell Hart; three bass players, juniors Lask, Brodie Burns, and Max Dubrinsky; and three cymbals, sophomores Jack Kruger and Patrick Shafer, along with freshman Amina Floyd.

The BHS drumline has evolved by leaps and bounds over the years and continues to evolve. It will lose only two members this year and will fortunately have five seniors on the line which will only make the drumline stronger next year.



## Three's Company: New teachers bring new ideas and fresh faces

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor



As many BHS students looked at their schedule for the upcoming school year, they may have found three new names in the teacher column.

The three new teachers who joined BHS this school year are, Ms. Katelyn Wong of the math department, Mrs. Stacey Walters of the English department, and Mr. Alan Posner of the band department.

The three teachers all said they had wanted to work at BHS because it is a great school system.

Wong studied at Grand Valley State University but graduated from Wayne State University, where she is now working on her Masters. She attributes her interest in BHS to her friends in the district. "Ms. Wong brings something new to Berkley", junior Rachael Wojta said. Outside of school Wong loves traveling to Europe as much as she can and watching Liverpool football.

Posner attended the University of Michigan. He said his ties to Berkley began with his cousins attending, and his private band teacher who had worked here. Outside of school Posner enjoys going to concerts, watching U of M sports and traveling to Europe. Something his students may not know about him? "I'm addicted to slurpees," Posner said.

Walters attended Oakland University. She said she had loved BHS when she started substitute teaching last year and that is what made her want to work here permanently. What should one expect in her classroom? "Enthusiasm!" junior Lim-Lim Kobe said. In her free time, Walters loves watching hockey, especially the Detroit Red Wings, she is a huge fan.

The three new teachers are enjoying their first two months at BHS. "[I like] that the students are very interested in learning," Ms. Walters said. "The kids are great," Wong added. They are very excited for what is to come throughout the rest of their first year.



From left to right: Mrs. Stacey Walters, Mr. Alan Posner, and Ms. Katelyn Wong

Photos by Barrett Hotz

## 6 THE SPECTATOR

*Berkley Erebus scares students*

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor

It only comes once a year. It is the night all children think about all year. This is the one night to be someone else. Little children running around, trick-or-treating and teenagers are looking for a scare. Halloween is many peoples' favorite holiday. This is the case for Berkley residents Don and David Weiner.

The Weiners' decorate their house elaborately for Halloween each year and call their house the "Berkley Boneyard." It has its props running on Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. The house is on the corner of Edwards and Cummings in Berkley.

The Weiners' started sharing their love for Halloween with the public in 1995 and since then it has continued to grow. "It brings fun for everyone locally," Don Weiner said. It takes three to four weeks of hard work for them to set up the whole display. "A guy in our neighborhood did it when we were kids," Weiner said, "and we said when we grow up we want to do it too."

All of their props are animated and run on electricity. In order to have enough electricity to run all of the props, they use electricity from two of their willing neighbors. There are so many wires but no one can ever see them. This is possible from the help of kids in the neighborhood who rake up nearly 900 gallons of leaves to cover up the wire. In return for this, the kids are allowed to work at the "Berkley Boneyard" to help with running the props.

From a man stuck under a lawn mower, to a ghost traveling above head, they have all kinds of props. Some are gross, like a guy throwing up and others are scary like someone getting a death penalty in the electric chair. The yard is "filled to the bones" with homemade props.

If you go trick-or-treating in Berkley, then the "Berkley Boneyard" is definitely a place to stop. Over 2,500 pieces of candy are passed out each Halloween.

And because of this, going to the "Berkley Boneyard" is a definite must. It is a fun and free way to have some good Halloween fun.

*Halloween inspires new costumes*

Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer

With Halloween fast approaching, one question fills our minds: how should I dress up this year? With the hundreds, if not thousands, of possibilities available to us, it is difficult to choose the perfect one.

If you prefer to take the more conventional method and pay a visit to your nearby costume store, you will be greeted with aisles upon aisles of choices. To be honest, it is a bit overwhelming. From vampires to mermaids, there is surely something for everyone, but making the choice presents the difficulty.

If you have yet to find a costume that suits your fancy at a store, there is always the option of expressing your inner creativity and sporting one of your own making. While this may prove to be more arduous, in the end it will surely be worth it.

When it comes to Halloween costumes, the more unique the better. Junior Riley Gallagher agrees with this. He said, "I prefer to make my own costumes because the store bought ones just aren't revealing enough for me."

If you are still stuck, it may help to talk with friends about their plans. Sophomore, Ella Schodowski shared her plans for Halloween. "I am going to dress up as the Black Swan from the movie, Black Swan," Schodowski said.

To help in the decision making process, it might be beneficial to go to a few websites before you decide. If you happen to visit <http://www.spirithalloween.com/>, you may be overwhelmed with the amount of costumes you can choose from. This site is the equivalent to your local costume store.

But, if you have already decided to take the creative approach, there are websites to aid you, as well. The site <http://www.robinsfyi.com/holidays/halloween/costumes.htm> provides a fresh, new perspective on "do-it-yourself" costumes and you are sure to come across a costume idea that is both inventive and easy to make.

Whether you choose to go the store-bought route or to make your own, simply participating in trick-or-treating is sure to land you a sweet treat.

*How old is too old for trick-or-treating?*

Grace Turner '13, Freelance Writer



Trick-or-treating is one of every child's great pastimes—who doesn't love hanging out with friends and getting free candy after dark? This always brings up a troubling point though:

is there a time when someone should stop going door to door and begging for candy? I personally know many high school students who still go trick-or-treating, myself included, but when I really think about it, I

start to wonder whether people really want to give high school kids candy when they show up on their porch. Would they rather throw rotten fruit and vegetables at their heads and slam the door in their faces? Whatever cruel intentions that the candy passer-outers may have to me that it should be up to the trick-or-treaters as to when to quit the annual toll for Hershey's and Gobstoppers.

When inquiring about when students think high schoolers should stop trick-or-treating, sophomore Keenan Trial said it should be about age 13, and freshman Anna Gull said it should be at 15. Junior Sean Hill said that trick-or-treating can go on until "someone is not able to walk." Whatever the age though, making an effort seems mandatory to get candy. Senior Daley Matthews-Pennanen said that the cut off age should be "once you stop trying to make a nice costume," while Hill said, "You need to wear a costume. You wore one when you were a little kid, you need to wear one now, and you have to say 'trick-or-treat'. You have to earn your candy." Just walking up to a neighbor's porch in jeans and

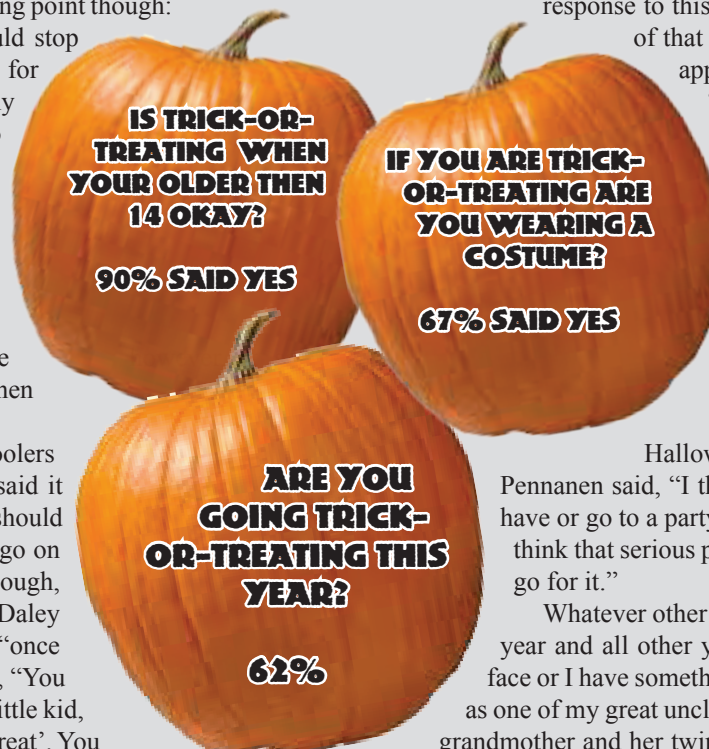
a t-shirt seems to be out of the question.

In all honesty though, should 40-year-olds be allowed to go trick-or-treating? In response to this, Gull said, "I'd be like, get away from me," if someone of that age came up to her door. When Trial was asked if it was appropriate for 80-year-olds to go trick-or-treating, he said, "I would feel bad for them and probably give them a big piece of candy...because they're cute when they [go trick-or-treating]. You'd have to give them something easy to chew though."

Other than it being unacceptable for 40-year-olds to go trick-or-treating but perfectly fine for 80-year-olds to go, should there be different cut-off ages for males and females? "Not at all," Hill said. "If you're able to go trick-or-treating, it shouldn't matter who you are."

There also seems to not be an age limit for other Halloween shenanigans—for instance, parties. Matthews-Pennanen said, "I think you should stick to your age group, but anyone can have or go to a party." As for an age limit to devil's night pranks, she said, "I think that serious pranks aren't appropriate, but if you're just joking around, go for it."

Whatever other high schoolers think, I will be going trick-or-treating this year and all other years until someone actually does slam their door in my face or I have something better to do. This seems to be a tradition in my family, as one of my great uncles went trick-or-treating well into his fifties, and my great grandmother and her twin sister went when they were fifty. Trick-or-treating sees no age.



HITS AND MISSES IN ENTERTAINMENT TODAY

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor



MISS: THE NEW BACHELOR

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

For all of us who are avid *Bachelor/Bachelorette* fans, watching the ABC drama unfold every Monday night is a high. But bringing back losing contestants from the previous season is not good for viewership. Sure, we would like to see former contenders Ben or Ashley find love on the show, but not repeatedly. Start fresh, find someone brand new and let them find love. Everyone deserves a chance at love, not just previous people on the show. Can ABC find someone new that has no prior Bachelor or Bachelorette experience and put them on the show and let it roll? Thanks.

HIT: POTTERMORE

Meagan Soffin '14, Bull's Eye Editor

As many may know, there has been much talk about a Harry Potter website to be created for an insider look on all of the Harry Potter books. On July 31 the website *Pottermore* opened up temporarily for fans to have a chance to get an early account. In order to obtain one, clues were given over a period of seven days (each day corresponding with a book in the series) in which the fan had to answer correctly. The lucky one million fans who received the accounts are able to use the website before anyone else. This website was created by J. K. Rowling to give fans more information about the background and setting of all the books while having fun. Following Potter through his years at Hogwarts, chapter by chapter, in an interactive reading experiences is one of the many features this website has. As you do this, you will be able to collect items and earn points for your house you are assigned to. *Pottermore* opens up to the public in October 2011.

HIT: MODERN FAMILY

Jimmy Demery '13, Opinion Editor

*Modern Family* is one of the best shows on television, and apparently the Emmy's agree. It was nominated for 17 of the famed primetime awards and won five of them, including Outstanding Comedy Series. So I am clearly not alone in saying that the third season of *MF* has been outstanding.

The third season of the wildly popular *MF* premiered on Sept. 21, to over 14 millions viewers. It doesn't matter who your favorite character is. Whether it is Phil Dunphy, portrayed by Ty Burrell (who won an Emmy for his performance), or Lily the adopted Vietnamese child, every character brings laughs to the show. They all have their moments of brilliance.

*MF* is on NBC every Wednesday at nine and I highly recommend you watch it. It is the best comedy on TV, and the third season should continue to live up to the high expectations.



HIT: THEMED FOOTBALL GAMES

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

In years past, whiteout themed football games have dominated the majority of the season. A spectacle of white clad fans take over the student section. But this year, things are a little different. Each football game has had its own theme (i.e. jerseys, blackout with glow sticks). These themes give us not only a reason to dress differently (and strangely) each week, but is something that can help the boys get pumped up for another exciting game. It adds a little zest to the usual sea of white. Future ideas: Superheroes? Wear your mom's wedding dress? Western theme? Jersey Shore a.k.a Royal Oak student section? Keep 'em coming for next season.



MISS: NFL RULE CHANGES

Mitchell Hart '13, News Editor

In order to protect athletes, the National Football League moved the spot of the ball from the 30-yard line to the 35-yard line for kickoffs. Although the intent of the rule change is to protect from possible head injuries, it completely undermines the entertainment value of the NFL. The percentage of touchbacks on kickoffs has risen from 16 percent last season to 31.4 percent after the first four weeks of this season. According to ESPN football analyst Jon Gruden, the kick off is "the most exciting part of the game." Kicking the ball from the 35 is just not as exciting as a Devin Hester return for a touchdown. As more kickoffs are falling deep into the end zone, the fan experience has noticeably declined.

## 8 THE SPECTATOR

## Six hour schedule takes physical toll on students

Julia Pompilius '14, Freelance Writer



Everyone at BHS is scrambling to adjust to the new six-hour schedule. Six classes' worth of homework every night and only 61-minute classes are leaving Berkley students overwhelmed and exhausted. However, work overload is not the only effect the six hour day has had; BHS students are now complaining of physical aches and pains.

A six hour schedule means hauling six classes' worth of supplies to and from school every day. This includes every single binder, folder, and notebook for each class. Not to mention pencils, pens, calculators, and the like.

Nearly every class requires students to have their textbooks present each class. These textbooks weigh an absurd amount and make up the majority of backpack weight. Those who participate in band or orchestra must carry the additional bulk of their musical instruments every single day.

Not surprisingly, this outstanding load is straining students' bodies. Medical professionals advise that students carry no more than 15 percent of their body weight on their backs, but BHS students are bearing far more than that. Carrying more than we are physically built to sustain can result in various back and neck problems.

Sophomore Maddie Meade can testify to this.



"My shoulders turn red, and it's not good for my scoliosis," Meade said when asked if she has experienced any pain as a result of her extra heavy backpack.

"My backpack weighs 33 pounds," she adds.

A 33 pound backpack far surpasses the recommended amount, and is sure to lead to back and neck complications.

Sophomore Ian Barnes agrees.

"My backpack is extremely heavy, and this is without books," he said, lifting his bag. "It should not be this heavy. My shoulders really hurt."

Though freshmen have no previous year of block scheduling to compare to this one, they too are feeling the pain.

Instead of a traditional two-strap backpack, freshman Chloe Rinkel carries a one-shouldered tote bag.

"It feels like one shoulder is being pulled down much further than the other. That shoulder hurts a lot more," she said.

Though stylish, these bags are harder on the body, especially the shoulders.

The new schedule is literally a pain in the neck, but unfortunately, it's not going anywhere. Thankfully, there are some solutions. Try taking advantage of the seldom used lockers, use lightweight binders, or just do some push-ups. BHS students are going to have to do whatever it takes to tough this one out.

## 6 block does NOT rock

### Schedule change causes problems for students

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Entertainment Editor



This is the article you have all been waiting for. You know the one that holds the *Spectator* staff's sassy view of the new six-block schedule with colorful adjectives and vibrant verbs, (which will of course still be included), but essentially that this is the staff's and only the staff's opinions on how this new schedule sucks and that we should go back to block schedule. However, we felt that it would be more effective to go to the students to see how everybody else feels about having their comfortable every-other-day homework-schedule ripped out from under them.

Believe me, I was just as infuriated as some of you when we had to go down to the LMC last year to take two classes out of our schedule. So has this new schedule actually grown on us after as little as a month? Could this actually be beneficial to our learning? Or are we just being bombarded with extensive hours of homework, essentially living our lives on repeat? We arrive to the same classes everyday with the same students and the same teachers, and sit in the same seats, and take the same route, and take notes with the same pen in the same notebook. You get the deal.

Freshman Tor Wyatt said that he likes the six-block schedule. Tor says he "likes the shorter classes." He also said he only has about an hour to an hour and a half of homework per night. But he is a freshman, what does he have it to compare to?

On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, sophomore Jessica Steele despises the new schedule. Her abhorrence is probably caused by her consistent five nightly hours of homework. Steele also slanders the schedule by stating that she "no longer has time to do homework in class [due to the reduced class times]," which of course adds to her nightly homework load.

When asked if this schedule could have any long lasting benefits that did not come out of block scheduling, Steele said, "Absolutely not."

The question in most people's minds that prefer our old block scheduling is generally how much money is this actually saving? Principal Randall Gawel reassured me that this change was not done merely to torture us; it is in fact saving the school district an estimated \$500,000.

Multiple teachers were laid off, but the majority of the savings is coming from the fact that now teachers are teaching 5\6 classes rather than 6\8 classes, increasing from 75 percent of time spent teaching to 83 percent. This overall creates a more efficient system for all. This change in scheduling was also done so the school district was not forced to cut entire programs like music, art, or any extracurricular activities.

There has not been a significant drop in extra-curricular participation said Gawel, as many students feared would happen due to a great increase in homework.

Other students feared that having fewer classes would lower their chances of getting into the college of their choosing, but the fact of the matter is that there are hardly any schools on the block schedule. If anything lowering us to six instead of eight classes is evening the playing field. Now our schedules can be evenly compared to other high schools, rather than the thought that our high GPA's are not as difficult to achieve because we had the opportunity to have extra classes.

Another concern was that the students would not learn as much, but as Gawel said; it does not matter if your class is 60 minutes or 90 minutes, if you have a good teacher you are going to learn the material.

As far as Gawel is concerned this transition has gone quite smoothly. About 12 years ago when they first changed from the six-block to eight-block scheduling there was a much greater uproar than now, which may surprise some.

Gawel said that the new schedule works better for some departments opposed to others. Math teachers prefer it because now they can teach everyday, as do foreign language teachers since having classes daily helps students with their fluency and pronunciation.

In another department, for instance, social studies, teachers had a 90-minute period set aside for testing which they now must adjust; similarly, some science teachers are having problems due to the 90 minutes needed for completion of a lab.

He said that they are still working out the kinks, and that it will probably take around three months for everyone to adjust. Even though there may be some kinks now that need fixing, Gawel firmly said, "it will all be okay, people adapt, that's what they do."

The six-block schedule is not what students or staff want, but what everyone has to put up with.



## Students from divorced homes set apart from the statistics

Clarissa Donnelly '13, Entertainment Editor



According to Jennifer Baker of the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, it is estimated that about 50 percent of all first marriages end in divorce. An analysis of the data collected from the U.S Census Bureau concludes that of those marriages, about 34 percent of people are left as single parents raising children under the age of 18. Plenty of

students at BHS have divorced parents, but are they just additions to the statistics?

Sophomore Sam Glazer and twin Sydney Glazer were two years old when their parents divorced, both parents are remarried now and the Glazer twins have a younger sister.

Another student of divorced parents is junior Sophie Bruza. Bruza was also very young when her parents divorced at the age of three. She did not feel the effect as much as her two older siblings. Sophie believes her older sister Alex, who was six at the time “took it the hardest because she was old enough to understand what was going on.”

Bruza attempts to see her dad as often as possible, but that is made difficult because he lives in Plymouth. Bruza is also often left alone due to both of her parents hectic work schedules, but she can tell that her dad “tries to be a part of [her] life as much as he can, [she] can tell he feels bad when he misses out on things.”

Her mom also misses out on school events and is not home for long periods of time, but Bruza said that she

“always tries to make time to spend with [her].”

A freshman that prefers to remain nameless also has a somewhat different situation. Her parents divorced when she was four. She said, “most people wouldn’t think that it would affect me since I was so young but it did. I never liked people fighting, and especially since it was two of the most [beloved] people in my life. I was always so used to my mom coming home around four, [and] then she would stop since she moved out. Part of my day was always missing after that.”

Andrew J. Cherlin of the article “Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage” of Harvard University, has shown that students from divorced households often have lower achievement in school and feel distant from their peers. However, the experiences of junior Sophie Bruza, sophomore Sam Glazer, and the anonymous freshman all seem to contradict this fact.

Bruza said having divorced parents “does not in any way make [her] feel like [she] doesn’t fit in.” However she notes that if her parents were still together it would be a good thing, since “they’re both really good at motivating me.”

In accordance with the opinion of Bruza, the anonymous freshman states that she “does really well as is, [she doesn’t] feel that having [her] parents together would change that.”

Glazer also said that it “has not affected [her] school work at all; [she] keeps her grades up as much as any students whose parents are still together.”

Another study done by E. M. Hetherington & J. Kelly,

“For better or worse,” has shown that adolescents of divorce often encompass much less trust in people, which can eventually lead to problems in forming relationships. Once again, this is challenged by the reminiscences of Sam and the nameless freshman.

Although neither twin has seen their father in almost six years, the Glazer twins live with their mother and stepfather. Glazer said she “feel[s] equally loved by [her] stepfather and [her] mother.”

The strong relationship she has with her mother and stepfather shows that although her life was changed by divorce, and although she was made vulnerable by it, she made the best of it. She allowed herself to be open and willing to accept other people into her life. This was beneficial in the long run by rewarding her with these long lasting loving relationships.

The anonymous freshman’s parents are remarried and she now has two half brothers “that [she] treat[s] as if they were [her] full siblings.” This displays how although her life was uprooted by the divorce, she did not allow it to have an ever a lasting negative impact on her.

It seems as though students from BHS fall as far from the statistics as possible. Although sometimes feeling neglect due to long work hours, half-sibling-favoring, or a clear ignorance from certain parents, students try their best and persevere through difficult family times in order to arrive at their highest possible achievement in school.

## Pitch in for the community, volunteering has never been so easy

Megan Soffin '14, Bull’s Eye Editor



Being a volunteer can mean many different things to different kinds of people. To some it means giving back to the community. To others it is a way to pad their resume. No matter what the reason is for you, sometimes it can become a challenge to find the right place to volunteer. Instead of having to go through the trouble to find places to volunteer, here are some excellent volunteer opportunities near Berkley.

### Easter Seals-

At Easter Seals, you will be helping with the fundraising events they host. You can also help out in the offices by mailing letters and answering the phone. You must be 16 years or older to volunteer. Before you can volunteer, they will have to do a background check. The main office is located in Auburn Hills, but they have another location in Southfield.

If this interests you and you would like to volunteer here, contact Dallas at 248-475-6411 or go to [www.essmichigan.org](http://www.essmichigan.org).



### American Diabetes Association-

At the American Diabetes Association, you can help out with office work. This would include tasks such as using Microsoft Office Excel, answering phone calls, and stuffing envelopes. You could also help out at events. They are located at 30200 Telegraph, Suite 105, Bloomfield Hills.

If this interests you, contact Ronnell Carr at 248-433-3830 ext. 6697.



### The Judson Center-

At the Judson Center, there are many different opportunities to volunteer. You can help out at events like the Kid’s Night In with kids who have autism. There you can also help with fundraising, in the offices, or collecting food for families that are in emergency situations. Their building is located at 13 mile and Greenfield.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Judson Center, you can contact Jessica Wilson at 248-837-2019 and she will send a packet to fill out in order to volunteer.

### Providence Hospital-

At Providence Hospital, there are multiple volunteer options. This all depends on what you are interested in, your skills, and your availability. The assignments range from greeting people as they come into the hospital or working in one of the offices. If you would prefer to work with patients you could help transport people from one area of the hospital to another or work on a patient floor. There is also the possibility of working in the gift shop. In order to volunteer here, you must be 16 years or older. They are located in Southfield at 9 Mile and Greenfield.

If this interests you, call the office at 248-849-8806 and ask for more information about volunteering.

Berkley High School has a volunteer service club. You can join it and they will tell you about new volunteer opportunities. If you would like more information or have questions or know you would like to sign up to volunteer, go to [www.berkleyvolunteerclub.com](http://www.berkleyvolunteerclub.com).

# WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor

## THE WEEK OF SPIRIT

Arguably the best week at BHS is homecoming week, more commonly known as Spirit Week. This is every student's opportunity to show their school spirit. Spirit Week this year included the daily themes: pajama day, toga Tuesday, Berkley apparel day, jungle day and class color day.

The more spirited students went all out while some opted to dress normally and show no school pride. Jungle day was a little difficult for some to pull off, since not many male students own animal print. And they probably should not, however, the most spirited males still tried to dress accordingly. Senior Peter Hoch, for example, dressed in a jungle-monster/swamp-person outfit, going all out, expressing his school pride.

The most important day, color day, is every student's time to represent their class. Looking out at the sea of colors at the pep rally, and noticing the few freshmen that would do the opposite and wear black, or a number of students in any grade, who were not wearing their color, was a bit heartbreaking. How hard is it to wear a blue, red, green or white shirt? A noticeable student standing against the red was junior Abigail Matthews, who decided to wear black and a sign around her neck which said "End segregation, stop color day." Yes, the colors single grades out, but it is also a sign of camaraderie and support for your class.

One student who enjoyed dressing for color day is junior Dugan Fernandez, who wore red basketball shorts, shoes with red laces, his class tie-dye shirt, double wrist bands, a g-shock watch and even red underwear. "Juniors are the best," Fernandez said, clearly showing his class spirit. Spirit week was a chance for students to feel like a part of something. The chance to be able to look back on their high school days full of fond memories and good times is something irreplaceable.



**BERKLEY WINS!**

"IT FELT GOOD WINNING BIG IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE"  
- SENIOR DAMON ELDRIDGE



**42-15**

## THE GAME

This was it. The game that mattered the most to loyal fans. The game that set the mood for the upcoming weekend. And the game that brought out the biggest crowd this football season has seen thus far. This was it. The loudest and most involved student section this side of the Mississippi roared the fight song with enthusiasm. With a win, the boys would surely help to make the weekend a more memorable and enjoyable homecoming event.

Homecoming, for some, is the one weekend during the school year where kids can dress up like movie stars or scream for their team so loud that they lose their voices. When asked about the game, the lone sophomore on the varsity team Dennis Bevza said, "I knew it was going to be a long battle against them and I didn't want to disappoint my teammates; so that meant we had to out hit them, out run them, and out win them." Similarly senior Damon Eldridge said, "all we thought about was how we had to win and couldn't let down our fans. We did just that, and beat an elite team in our league with a blowout. It felt good winning big in front of all those people."

Surely not disappointing their loyal fans, the Bears went on to win the game 42-15 making the atmosphere of Saturday's Homecoming dance that much better.

## THE DANCE

Although it started out as a good and creative idea, the dance theme, when it came down to it, was poorly executed. The decorations, which included green and brown balloons and a canopy, did not give the mood of being in the jungle. At all. When a student walked in the gym, it should have been more apparent that they had just stepped foot into a jungle, not a high school gym.

When I hear "Welcome to the Jungle," I automatically think dark and indigenous, vines and deep brush. Not fluorescent lights and linoleum gym floors.

And now that I think about it, jungles are dark and maybe even a little mysterious, so why were the lights on at the dance? The entire time. I am fully aware that some lights do need to be on for safety, but I recall last year that not all of them needed to be on - like the sun. What problem would happen at a dance that we would need all the lights on? A dancing emergency, perhaps?

There was also an overabundance of parents and teachers walking around the perimeter of the dance looking for students who were dirty dancing. Those who were caught dirty dancing received a lecture about it. Sophomore Zack Segall for instance received a "stern look with Mr. Ross crossing his arms and shaking his head" which made Segall feel "awkward, weird and caused [him] to stop dancing." However, regardless of the uncomfortable looks Segall received, the sophomore still had a good time.

Hopefully next year the theme for our homecoming will be better executed and we will not have to feel like we are spending the entire time under spotlights. Aside from the decorations and lights, the dance was a grand ol' time and all BHS students had the chance to dress up and look extra snazzy. Let's face it, everyone loves doing that.



Photos by Moe Fernandez, Veronica Marchese and Renee Hanna

## 12 THE SPECTATOR

## FANTASY FOOTBALL: GET YOUR GRIDIRON ON

Aaron Cohen '13, Entertainment Editor



The stereotypical football player is a strong, burly athlete, capable of inflicting severe bodily harm on his opponents. However, a new breed of football superstars are taking the country by storm. They are of average height, strength, and often times, have little to no athletic ability. I am one of these players. I am the new face of football. And I, along with millions of other sports fans worldwide, have fallen hard for a new sports craze that is taking over the country: fantasy football.

In short, fantasy football is a game of statistics. The season begins with a draft of NFL players, where teams take turns choosing athletes who they believe will produce solid numbers throughout the course of the season. Scores are calculated based on each individual player's performance, and fantasy points are awarded for positive statistics. For example, if your running back scores a touchdown, your team may be awarded six points. Each week, fantasy teams go head to head, and whoever has more points after every NFL game has been played, wins.

So why is fantasy football so widely popular?

The beauty of fantasy football is that it provides a way to take an active role in a seemingly passive pastime: Watching football. Although, the

average fantasy team manager is not necessarily the one playing on the field, but by turning someone else's game into their own, they allow themselves to become part of the action. Their decisions matter.

It seems as though others feel similarly. "We all love watching football," junior Vince Plaskey said, "and having a way to relate to it makes it even more fun." Junior Tommy Despard also said, "Playing fantasy football is a great way to stay involved in the NFL."

Other fantasy lovers mentioned the financial aspect of the game. Although not all leagues play for money, some have a buy-in price, which is awarded to the winner at the end of the season. Many play because they love the competition. Senior Hayden Alpert said, "It's an opportunity to talk smack with your friends. When we're all together, it's all we talk about."

There are a variety of reasons why fantasy football is so popular, but at the end of the day, they all come back to a common thread; People love the game of football. With such easy access to technology, fantasy football the next step for those looking to get their gridiron fix. No football fan can resist. As long as football is around, there will be people excited to take the opportunity to make their fantasies a reality.

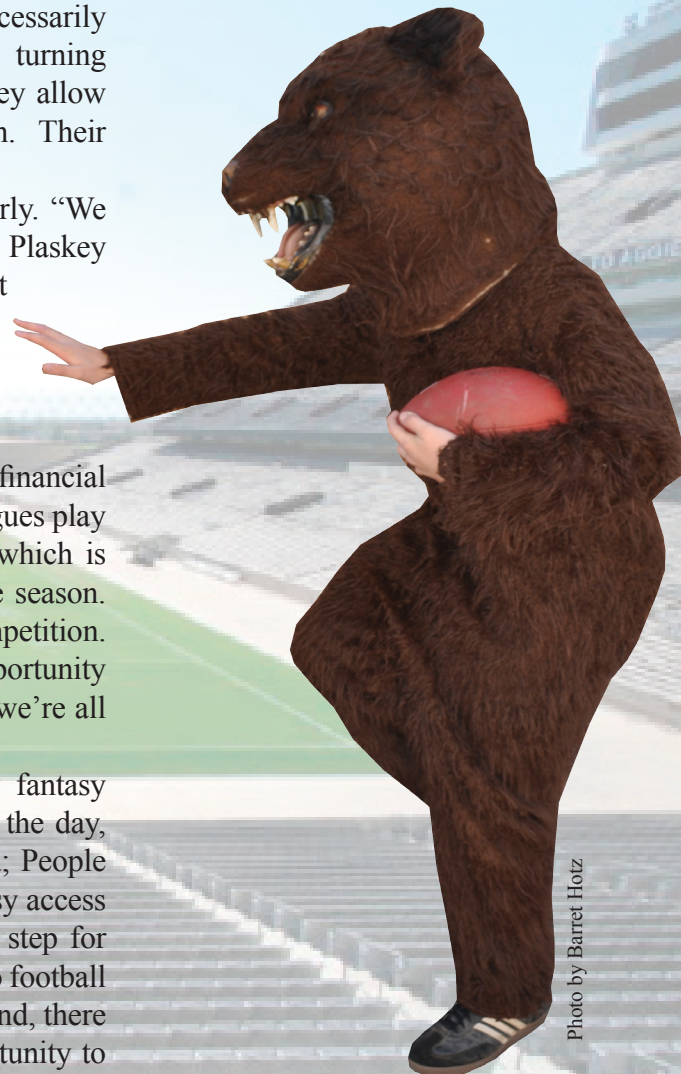


Photo by Barret Hotz

The bear strikes the Heisman pose.

## Powderpuff loses rivalry, dates moved four times

Alison Jones '13, Feature Editor



Drama surrounding the juniors and senior girls was in motion long before the powder puff festivities were set to begin. The game, originally scheduled for Oct. 3, then Oct. 14, then Oct. 17, was now finally set with the date of Oct. 24. Seeing as the date of this historic game is very late in October, snow is highly likely; this is Michigan after all.

On top of the multiple date changes and the cold weather, some of the girls are not even excited for the game anymore. "They [Student Leadership] keep putting get off, so we get excited and then it keeps getting moved farther and farther away," junior Alexandra Prappas said.

"The rivalry isn't there anymore between all the grades because of homecoming," she said. It is an unfortunate occurrence that it is so far off the heels of homecoming, because the excitement has now worn off.

Another factor in the date of the game was communicating the changes to students participating in the game. "I was concerned about relaying the details to the kids because some go to CASA," Student Leadership advisor Ms. Adrienne Armstrong said.

Because of the consistently obnoxious date changes we are unable to give you the results of the game. Good luck juniors and seniors. I hope the game actually happened. And the flame of rivalry was fanned on Oct. 24.



Photos by Mitchell Hart

The Bears prepare for Powderpuff.

# FRESHMAN TENNIS STAR RISES

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor



As the BHS boys' tennis team's fall season progresses, there is a certain freshman who not only made varsity, but also is the number one singles tennis player for the team. His name is Noah Kretchmer.

Kretchmer has been playing tennis for only four years, but with his hard work and dedication to this sport, earned his spot on the varsity team.

"When Noah is off the court, he is often quiet and unassuming, but when he gets on the court, the switch flips and he goes into a mode that strikes concern to his opponent," his coach, Mr. Waldman said. "He only knows one way to play, and that is all out."

Kretchmer is great at representing our school by having good court manners, determination, and fortitude. "Although he is young, he commands the respect of the older varsity players," Waldman said. Kretchmer has a great work ethic on the court as well as off the court. He truly knows the meaning of hard work, and has certainly gotten him far with only losing 1 out of 7 tennis matches.

With the spirit and the motivation the school and his teammates give him, he gives his all with every practice and match he has. Kretchmer said, "I feel like I give some spirit to the team, but I can't take all of the credit."



Junior Sam Subia, freshman Noah Kretchmer, senior Simone Merendi, and junior Ian Kobernick show their team spirit and support of one another.

Photo courtesy of Lenny Waldman



Noah Kretchmer waits for his opponent to return his serve.

His fellow teammates have also put in their best effort and have a lot of spirit for the school and the team.

With countless hours of practicing, all of the boys deserve recognition for their hard work.

Coach Waldman said that this year's boys' tennis team is a true Cinderella story

because never before have they had a team with so many freshmen and sophomores on the varsity team. Also, never in 27 years has the team ever won league championships four years in a row until now. Kretchmer said he is honored to be able to be a part of such a great team, and is excited to watch all of the boys grow as tennis players, and into great men.

For Kretchmer to be playing with his close friends as well as being able to be a part of a great team is a dream come true. He is hoping to take his team all the way to states and along the way be able to compete with some of the best teams in the state.

## TENNIS TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

- 9-1 Overall record
- 5-0 in league (perfect league season)
- 39-1 records in league for matches
- 16-0 at league championship tournament
- OAA blue division champs for the 4th year in a row
- Moving up to the white OAA division for the 2012-13 season
- 16 points at regional championship and 2 points short of state qualification
- 3 out of 4 victories over higher division teams.

# THE NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor

A hectic schedule and juggling all the athletes at BHS is something the three different Athletic

Directors (ADs) have had to deal with the past three years. Sports teams and their coaches have to get used to how each new AD does things because everyone has their own style.

ADs oversee and supervise coaches and their teams, set the athletic budget, ensure teams obey and follow MHSA sport rules, schedule games and supervise officials.

Athletic Director Mr. Jim Cowdrey became

BHS's new AD this year; he was really excited to become a Bear. He knows that the past three ADs Berkley had and he knew he had "big shoes to fill." Cowdrey said. Having the past jobs of football coach here at BHS, and having taught PE here fifteen years ago, he had previous experience with BHS. Being the current assistant principal at Anderson Middle School, and dealing with the athletics at AMS, Cowdrey has experience with being in charge. He knew what he was getting himself in to.

Assistant Principal Mr. Ronald Kane, athletic director last year, knew Cowdrey would "be a great asset, he has experience coaching football." Cowdrey called BHS an "extension of Anderson" and was thrilled to start working at Berkley, especially when he got to see his previous students who have stopped in his office to say hello, saying it is "a lot of fun seeing old Vikings." Cowdrey is still the assistant principal at AMS, so he has a lot on his plate this year. He juggles AMS, BHS and his family. "It takes a lot of organization and prioritizing," Cowdrey said.

He knows he has obligations to both schools, being both a Viking and a Bear, so students and staff at BHS should be aware of his schedule. Cowdrey goes to BHS at 2 PM everyday from AMS.

AD Jim Cowdrey is excited about his new position.



# BURNSIDE IN THE BUILDING

Lindsay McFern '13, Sports Editor

This year brought changes to the football program, especially within the coaching staff.

With the former varsity football coach, Jim MacDougall, retiring at the end of last season, Jeff Burnside was given the position. Burnside, who previously coached football at Novi for ten seasons wanted to coach at BHS because it is a great school with good success and a nice community. "It's refreshing to be here," Coach Burnside said.

With last season being such a success, Burnside has a lot to live up to. "This year and last year has many differences, with different kids and a different team," Burnside said. There is no way to compare the two.

The football team has welcomed Burnside with open arms. "I like [Burnside] a lot; he teaches us instead of just focusing on the win" senior Kyle Macey said. "I can talk to my coach about anything," senior Omar Sitto adds.

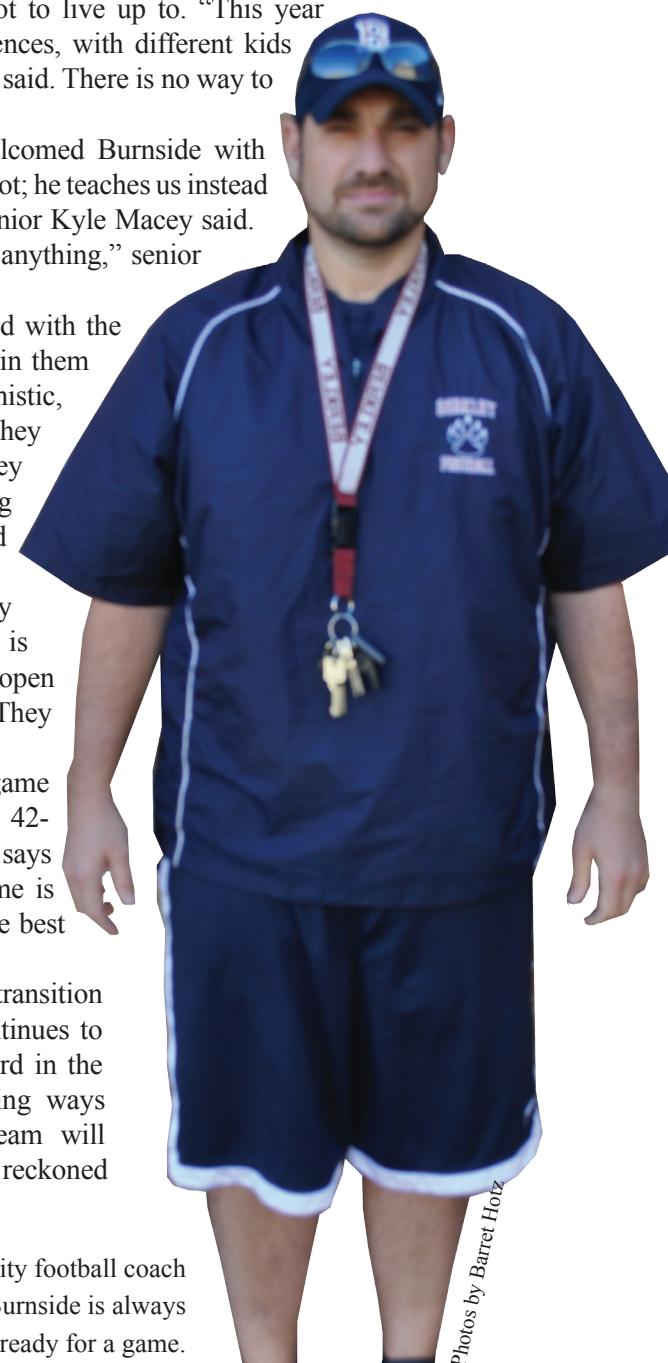
The team is very impressed with the amount of trust Burnside puts in them and how he is always optimistic, rather than being aggressive. They love the control of practice they gained, and the new playing style they have been introduced to because of him.

Burnside said he absolutely loves it here at BHS. The team is constantly working hard and open to learning. Burnside said, "They always give 110 percent."

At the homecoming game the team prevailed winning 42-15 against Lahser. The team says that although going into a game is always nerve-wracking, it is the best feeling to snag the win.

A new coach is a major transition for the team and the team continues to not disappoint with a 4-4 record in the league. With Burnside's trusting ways and optimistic attitude the team will continue to be a force to be reckoned with.

Varsity football coach Jeff Burnside is always ready for a game.



Photos by Barret Holz

# Drama Promotes Passion, Enthusiasm



Aaron Cohen '13, Entertainment Editor

As the curtain closed on last year's final drama production, so did an era of BHS Theater. Unbeknownst

to the participating students, Ken Phelps, the program's director of two years, would resign several weeks prior to the beginning of this school year. With no one lined up to take his place, Principal Randall Gawel posted an offer to anyone willing to take his place, however received only one response.

Kevin Savel, the director of both BHS's and Anderson Middle School's choirs, accepted the position on the terms that he would only be a temporary, one-show solution to a program uncertain of its future. With so much talent gone with last year's graduating class, many wonder how the drama department will react. However, despite all the unanswered questions, there is a fresh sense of optimism lingering in the Berkley High School auditorium.

He's right. Although the program has lost a number of gifted performers over the years, a new generation of BHS thespians is ready to step up and carry on the Berkley's theater legacy.

With opening night looming closer and closer into view, excitement builds within the Berkley drama program. Although it is unclear what the future holds, BHS can rest assure that it will continue to move forward with passion, enthusiasm, and excitement. After all, the show must go on.

Along with theater veterans like seniors Nitasha Kernen-Fox and Jake Wilt, as well as juniors Robin Collins and Taylor Tucker, many new faces have been welcomed into the new program.

Junior Sean Hill scored the lead role of Daniel in his first time ever auditioning for a musical. Seniors Adam Derrington and Robert Nebergall also landed major roles in their first production. "I wanted to breathe new life into the program," Savel said. "We've had a lot of talent leave over the past few years, but I wanted to show people that our talent has really only improved."

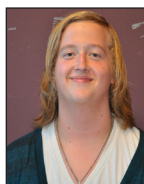
Although Savel has been affiliated with the program for several years, this is his first time directing a production of such a large scale. For the fall musical, he chose *Once On This Island*, a story resembling *The Little Mermaid*, but with an Afro-Caribbean twist. Within two weeks of school starting, Savel had a show fully cast and ready to begin the rehearsal process.



Within two weeks of school starting, Savel had a show fully cast and ready to begin the rehearsal process.

## New Albums

# Dropping



Barret Hotz '13, Photo Editor

Yelawolf is releasing his first album called *Radioactive* this month after signing with Shady Records set to drop Oct. 25. This is going to be his first in six years. The rest have been mixtapes recorded with a myriad of different producers including Drama, DGC and Interscope. His mix of southern hip-hop and ghetotech will give this album have its own twist. Singles on this album are "Hard White (In The Club)," featuring lil' jon and "no hands" Barley anyone releases two singles off of one album but Yelawolf has confidence that everyone will love his album.

## Yelawolf- Radioactive



## Wale- Ambition

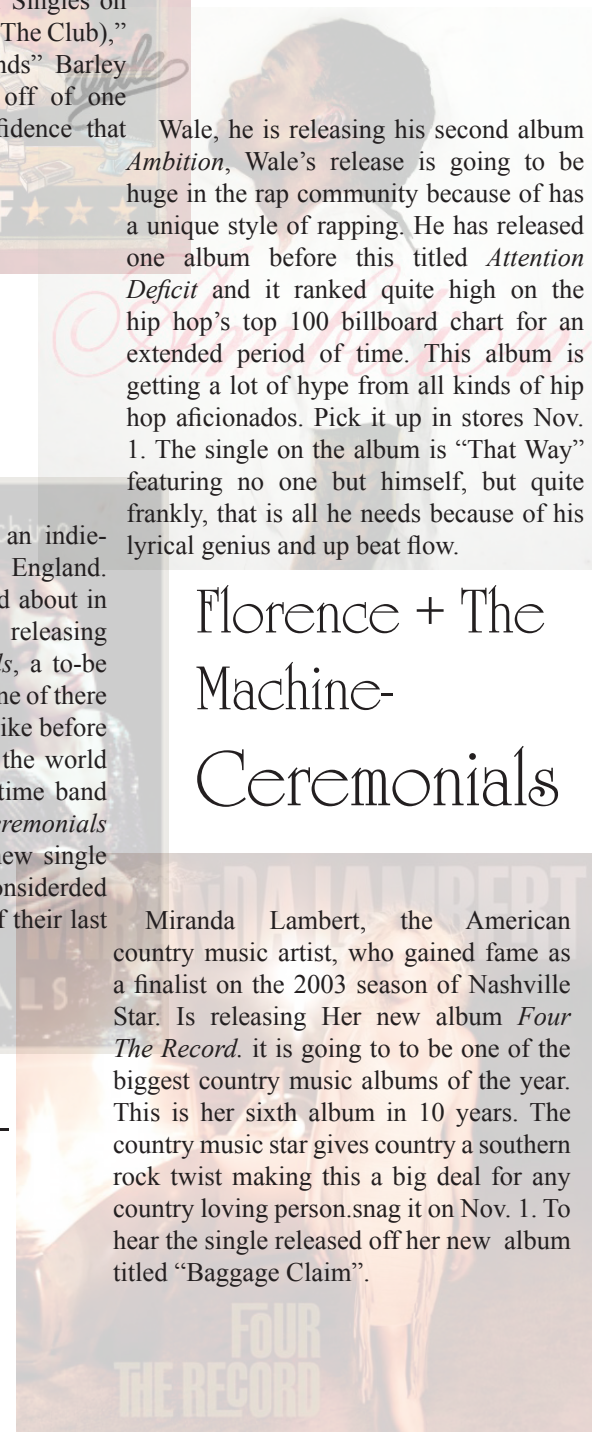
Wale, he is releasing his second album *Ambition*, Wale's release is going to be huge in the rap community because of his unique style of rapping. He has released one album before this titled *Attention Deficit* and it ranked quite high on the hip hop's top 100 billboard chart for an extended period of time. This album is getting a lot of hype from all kinds of hip hop aficionados. Pick it up in stores Nov. 1. The single on the album is "That Way" featuring no one but himself, but quite frankly, that is all he needs because of his lyrical genius and up beat flow.

Florence + The Machine is an indie-pop rock band from London, England. Their very unique sound is raved about in the indie community. FATM is releasing a new album called *Ceremonials*, a to-be indie master piece. This will be one of there biggest releases because now unlike before florence is big in most parts of the world when before they where small time band doing gigs in london pubs. *Ceremonials* is set to come out Nov. 1 the new single "ShakeIt Out" *Cerimonials* is considered to be the bigger better version of their last album *Lungs*.

## Florence + The Machine- Ceremonials

## Miranda Lambert- Four The Record

Miranda Lambert, the American country music artist, who gained fame as a finalist on the 2003 season of Nashville Star. Is releasing Her new album *Four The Record*. it is going to to be one of the biggest country music albums of the year. This is her sixth album in 10 years. The country music star gives country a southern rock twist making this a big deal for any country loving person. snag it on Nov. 1. To hear the single released off her new album titled "Baggage Claim".



16 THE SPECTATOR

# New fall TV season brings good and bad

Danny Bakst '12, Editor-In-Chief



No longer are the weeknights filled with re-runs and presidential debates. The new fall season has begun, and some new shows emerge with hope for success. Sitcoms like *Modern Family* and *Parks and Recreation* that always are gutbustingly hilarious, premiered, meeting high expectations. However, without Steve Carrel, usual comedy juggernaut *The Office* lost some of its pizzazz.

The cast without Carrel no longer provide bruises to the knees that previous seasons have caused. Due to the comedy schedule already set up, new shows have a high standard to follow. Some new shows have arrived with promise while others have come up short and left the viewer with a half-hour of wasted time.

## Whitney

After watching the first ten minutes of stand-up comedian Whitney Cummings's new show, I realized that her comedy style was not meant for the screen. Cummings gave the female comic game some hope, but her show disappointed. The producers tried to bring



an old school vibe to the show by making it a studio audience but it ended up sounding like they filled the studio with nitrous oxide so the audience would laugh every time a character talks. This show is just Whitney Cummings trying to be the female Larry David and taking the role of social assassin, but nobody can do it like Larry.

## 2 Broke Girls

Even though Whitney Cummings show did not meet hopes, her contribution as the creator of the new CBS sitcom *2 Broke Girls*, which is about an heiress of a lost fortune and a hard working New Yorker who work in



a diner. The New Yorker is played by, *40 Year Old Virgin* star Kat Dennings. She does not disappoint and is skilled in the way of sarcasm. This has a chance to be a great addition to the Monday night lineup.

## Up All Night

I might have been a little biased because of my love for Will Arnett and babies, but *Up All Night* definitely gets my vote for best new show.

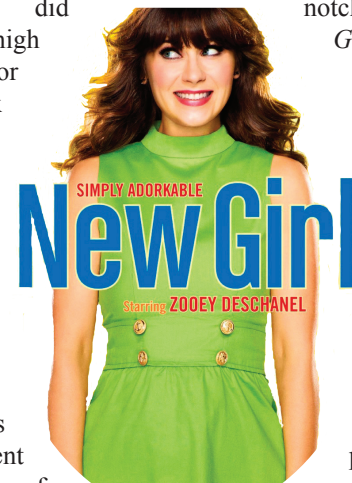
*Up All Night* is about two self described "world-class idiots" who end up having a baby. However, this is not using the *16 and Pregnant* stupid-people-with-a-baby vibe because they are married employed adults.



Arnett is a stay at home dad and, Applegate works for the Oprah-esque character, played by *Saturday Night Live* legend Maya Rudolph. Applegate is constantly upstaged by the classic quips of Arnett. This show definitely earned a second viewing.

## New Girl

Although I did not have very high expectations for the new fox sitcom, it did not even live up to my already diminished hopes and dreams. Although I respect Zoey Deschanel for her work in *Yes Man* she went down a couple of



notches on my list for *New Girl*. This show is about a women living in an apartment with three men. She walks around acting like a drunken fool with no control over anything she says or does. This show doesn't reach the golden pasture of the Bakst household DVR; follow my lead people.

Television has once again entered a new season and hopefully will be better than previous years. There are some big names like Ashton Kutcher and Tim Allen getting some new opportunities and have the potential to shine a new light on the television spectrum. As a senior and veteran television watcher, I have wasted a lot of time on the couch watching these shows, just so you can weed out the winners from the stinkers.

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# Rick in danger, Otis cookies next

James Demery '13, Opinion Editor



**W**ith each of the last two school years, more and more of Novi High School's former employees have come to Berkley High School. Year after year they take up another important post at Berkley. The only question is why is Novi coming after BHS?

The first strike was the biggest.

When former BHS Principal Mr. Dennis McDavid, was promoted to the School Board building, midway through the 2009-2010 school year, Novi employee Mr. Randall Gawel filled his position. This is Gawel's third year here, and during his tenure multiple changes have come around at BHS. Some of these include no more ID's, a new schedule, and large budget cuts.

Even after securing the top position at Berkley, Novi was still not content. The year after Gawel became principal, Mr. Ronald Kane joined the BHS staff as the athletic director, and an assistant principal. At that point former Novi employees were in control of half of the principal spots, and the athletic department. When asked why so many Novians were now at BHS, Kane said "Oh I'm not going to talk about that."

With the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, Kane stepped down from the AD position. Worried about losing its foothold in the athletics department, Novi saw another opportunity with the retirement of football coach Jim MacDougall. Soon after, it was announced that Jeff Burnside was the new coach at BHS. Burnside just so happened to coach at Novi High School before coming to Berkley.

In just under two years, three former Novi staff members have taken up three of the most important positions at BHS. Their intentions remain unknown, but many have speculated as to why. There are only two things at

BHS that Novi could want to steal. The first, obviously, is the legendary Rick Blanchard. Blanchard, who graces our halls with his presence as hall monitor, is widely regarded as one of the best hall monitors in all the land. Second, the delectable Otis cookies are at risk. Am I alone in wondering why the principals come into the cafeteria so often at lunch? I believe they are there to survey The Bear, for the possibly upcoming theft of the Otis recipe.

Who knows what Novi is capable of. We Berklians must stand together protect our school, our cookies, our beloved hall monitor.



Photo by Barret Hotz

Da Fighting Bear fights off the evil Novi Wildcats.

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# Grammar Shmammer, terror strikes the halls

Shelby Silver '14, Copy Editor and Olivia Wood '14, Freelance Writer



With all of the advances society makes on a daily basis, such as introducing a new smart phone on an annoyingly regular foundation, there are still some areas which are declining.

Seemingly overnight, the grammar that we have prided ourselves on for centuries is being thrown out the window and, taking its place, is exceptionally poor grammar. Students today seem to show a general lack of interest in speaking properly, something that we find to be quite concerning.

In the mornings when we are walking the halls of the fabulous BHS, our ears are trained to pick out the student who speaks in a way that makes us both rigid with anger. Our hands clench, and we want to correct each and every one of them. Why has grammar become such a problem?

In an attempt to shed some light on the situation, we interviewed sophomore Mason Sitto and got his opinion on when proper grammar is appropriate. Sitto said, "it gets on my nerves when people try an' correct me. If I wanna talks how I wanna talks, I can." Point taken. Or is it?

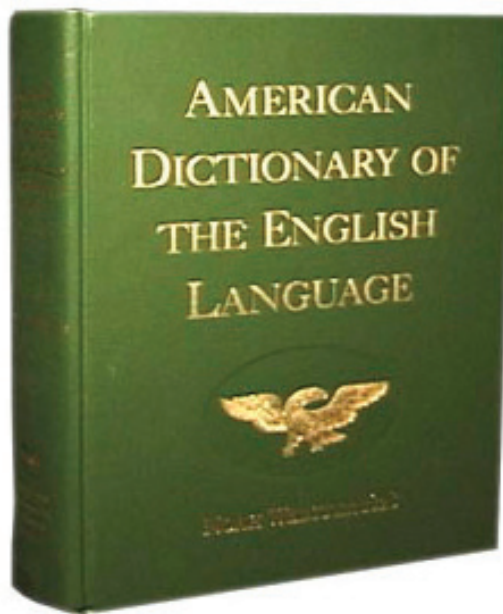
When asked if he felt he had good grammar Sitto said, "No! I have terrible grammar! I dunno... maybe 'cuz English ain't mah best subject."

Teachers, especially those in the English Department, are noticing a dramatic decline in kids' correct grammar, not only in the hallway but in the classroom, as well. We interviewed English teacher Mrs. Teresa Ferrera to get her input on this retched regression in the students' ways of speaking.

Ferrera said, "I do not mind that kids are speaking with slang outside of the classroom; I just hope that they know the difference between the way they speak in the classroom and the way they speak with their friends."

While there are varying degrees to the great severity the situation poses, we have found, through our ceaseless research, that most kids our age tend to get caught up in the "your/ you're" conundrum among many others. If the correct way to use those two pronouns has yet to stick in our memories--after ten years of learning them--we might add, then that it is no wonder our speech is declining! And it is not only the "your/ you're" problem, the list of offenses is seemingly endless. Memorization and proper use is key to success, people.

Do students need to devote more effort into correcting the way they speak, or does the rest of the world just need to lower their standards? Either way, something has got to change. While we doubt whole languages will be altered for a mere fad, this leaves this problem in the hands of our youth. So, children of BHS, stop with the slang and let us bask in our newfangled glory as we display our improved ways of speaking to the world.



## Drowning in the shore: Will it ever end?

Veronica Marchese '13, Student Life Editor



I have lost all faith in humanity and my generation. The reason? *The Jersey Shore* revolution.

The cast members of the atrocious MTV show: Snooki, JWOWW, Mike "The Situation", Vinnie, Pauly D, Ronnie, Sammi and Deena. While being overly tan and lacking in brain cell count, all show indicators of directly descending from cavemen. They communicate by means of grunting, slapping and swearing. How fans and avid watchers understand their communication is a marvel.

Do you remember that kid in first grade eating worms, picking his nose in public or poking dead animals with a stick? He grew up to call himself "The Situation". "The Situation" is a horrible excuse for a role model, along with the rest of the cast members.

According to AllJerseyShore.net, the Italian

government threatened to take away the casts' visas and revoke their filming permits because they did not want the cast members to portray Italians negatively or represent Italy for that matter. Along with Italy fearing *The Jersey Shore* giving them a bad rep, clothing brand Abercrombie and Fitch offered to pay "The Situation" to stop wearing their clothing in fear of his advertising hurting their brand.

All the girls on the show shop at Justice, wearing the tightest, ill-fitting, and rather blinged-out clothing I have ever seen. For instance, when Snooki said, "my [breasts] are so tight. I can't breathe" while wearing a hot pink and black corset, definitely supports that their clothing is only appropriate if you are planning to stand on a street corner. This is not appropriate for the young girls who watch this show; it gives them the wrong idea, that dressing like a hooker is socially acceptable – which might be okay if you are trying to pick up "gorilla-juice heads," or the guys Snooki is

attracted to.

The cast members consume enough alcohol to knock out a small herd of elephants. This is clear when Snooki said "I'm not trashy. Unless I drink too much."

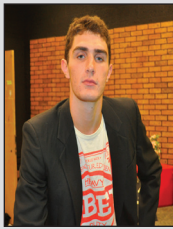
Many adults in the real world do drink but most are capable of refraining from acting like buffoons.

The cast members who are really of Italian heritage, Vinnie and Pauly D, give Italians and New Jersey inhabitants a bad name. Being Italian myself, I do not want to be associated with the likes of them and their fake tans.

Four seasons of the Shore is enough. When Snooki said, "there will always be a Jersey Shore. It will be in the dictionary," I hope and pray she is and forever will be wrong. Or when Ronnie said, "Never fall in love at the Jersey Shore," I take that as never fall in love with the Jersey Shore, because you might lose a few brain cells in the process.

# High Holy Days: Fun for Jews and Gentiles alike

Zak Witus '12, Editor-in-Chief



The High Holy Days are a magical time of the year for Jews and gentiles alike. On the evening of Sept. 29, while non-Jews relaxed at home, we Jews prayed our butts off at Rosh Hashanah services. The only comfort I drew during my rabbi's seemingly endless sermon was seeing my friend's texts and tweets, applauding the Jews. However, I soon realized that my friend's Semitic appreciation did not come from recognition of my people's contributions to society, but rather because our holiday allowed them to miss school.

As everyone knows, we students love getting school off with a passion. The nights before perspective snow days we stay up late, relentlessly refreshing the BHS website, making deals with the devil for a day off. So whenever we get an excuse for a day off we take it without question. However, on the High Holy Days (the time period including and in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) students think deeper as to why they have school off and who there is to thank.

As far back as the death of Jesus, to the Holocaust, after 9/11 and even to Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction, Jews always get the blame. The world continually makes my people into scapegoats. That is why the High Holy Days are such a

refreshing time. Because when the Sons of Abraham and Sisters of Sarah are responsible for students missing days of school, everyone looks upon their circumcised classmates with a little more warmth than humanity historically has. Opinion of the Jews reaches its peak when the Hebrew New Year rolls around. People at BHS like the Jews far more around the time of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the two holidays that respectively begin and end the High Holy Day period.)

However, throughout the year BHS students' opinion of their kosher classmates greatly varies between students. Maybe their family got a bad bank loan; they have lots of legal fees piling up, possibly even got in a tussle with a Rabbi over a jar of Gefilte fish, but whatever the reason, people always find an absurd excuse to dislike Jews. Yes, our culture makes many of us business savvy, in fact, we do have a substantial claim on the entertainment industry, and it is true, we ironically Jews own the majority of NBA teams, but these are no reasons to hate us Jews. Come on gentiles, what would Jesus do? Forgive us.

We are offering you an olive branch here. The annual time off for the High Holy Days is our gift to you. While you're chilling on our holiday, we'll be in services for five straight hours doing some heavy-duty repentance. Please consider this compensation for whatever misfortunes Jews have brought you

in the past. So if you'll give us winter vacation, we can call it even. Deal? Ok. How's that for a Jewish negotiation?



Blowing the shofar, the Bear shows how many other Jewish traditions are valued by all in the time of the High Holidays.

Photo by Barret Hotz

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## 20 SPECTATOR

**DYNAMIC DUO:  
PHENOMS TEAM UP TO  
BE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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



A two-headed dragon is a lot scarier than a one-headed dragon. Darth Maul was so bad-ass because of his dual-edged lightsaber. Salt is nothing without Pepa, and Butch Cassidy needs the Sundance Kid. At BHS, all-star writer Zak Witus and yours truly, have combined to become one editor-in-chief machine. Together we are holding the reigns of this paper and combining our minds to take it to a whole other level.

Recently, two mega-stars of the rap game, Jay-Z and Kanye West, created a duo album *Watch the Throne*. Hova and Yeezy blend perfectly together to create possibly the best rap album of the year. We have been inspired by these two and other dynamic duos of the past, to forge our own duo into greatness. Zak

is Darryl Hall and I am John Oates. We combined our two opposing writing styles and have transformed in to the "Optimus Prime of Chiefs." We're going with the UGK and Outkast approach by mixing two great talents together. *Spectator* 2011-2012 is our own personal "International Players Anthem."

From 12:53-1:54 it is officially game time. We, along with the rest of the staff, work tirelessly to put out a publication to entertain the student body. I play the role of Kobe Bryant and throw the alley-oop to Zak O'Neal to slam it down. As soon as news occurs, we will be there to cover it, like we are the newly teamed up Philadelphia Eagles pro-bowl cornerbacks Nnadi Asomugha and Asante Samuel. We are going to run room 116 like Dwanye Wade and Lebron James on a fast break. Like Detroit Tiger's sluggers, Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez, Zak provides the power and I compliment that with the versatility.

In the movies tenacious tandems have put out some of the best comedies of this generation. Just as Will Ferrel and John C. Reilly worked together as Dale and Brennan for *Stepbrothers*, Zak and I are going to put work in to entertain you as much as possible. Zak has a business mind like Sol from *Pineapple Express* and I have the creativity like Dale Denton. Zak is the brawn like Jay, and I am the brains like Silent Bob.

There is a reason why people don't ride unicycles at the Tour de France and that Cyclops don't actually exist. Two is always better than one, no matter what the situation. Doesn't a date with two models sound a lot better than a date with one? A quarter-pounder just doesn't cut it in today's society; we need a double quarter-pounder, with cheese of course. If you want to look really fancy you put on a double-breasted suit, not a single. Brace yourself Berkley, because this two headed monster of a leader is going to blow your socks off.... Twice.

**TOO INCRIMINATING  
FOR A COLLEGE ESSAY**

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



After Isiah was forced to resign from camp last summer, he matured more quickly than he had in the past 17 years of his existence. The specific details to Isiah's story are irrelevant and frankly incriminating, so I will not divulge them here. However, I will add that Isiah's actions did not undermine his abilities as a counselor or jeopardize the safety of any camper. The bottom line is that Isiah breached his contract and also the trust of his employer.

Thus, on July 14 at 2 a.m., with the camp slogan "Summer Freedom" imprinted mockingly across his 2011 camp t-shirt, the camp's director waved goodbye to Isiah as he drove away with his father. With plenty of time to reflect upon himself during the following weeks of being grounded at home, Isiah

developed his summer experience into his Common Application essay.

The Common Application, a service used by 456 colleges worldwide, requires applicants to write a 500-word personal statement about an experience, event, or person that positively influenced in their lives. Most students discuss a learning experience or a time they presented a characteristic they believe colleges would desire such as: being a camp counselor, writing on the school newspaper, or completing a difficult hike. However, some of our most meaningful influences come from times we make mistakes and stumble in some way.

Unfortunately, if Isiah submitted an essay about his unorthodox dismissal from camp to colleges, they could plausibly deny him admission to their school. Here arises the catch-22 for Isiah and other college applicants: Whether to risk writing a truly honest and candid essay, or whether to submit an essay more likely to appease a college's admissions department.

The topic of Isiah's essay was not intended to stir controversy or to be rebellious. Isiah chose to write about his seemingly negative experience because he found it ultimately had a positive impact on him. Everybody screws up; the important part is the lesson, and accepting the consequences and moving forward wiser for the experience.

Initially Isiah blamed other people, relying on the faults of others as the reason for his own shortcomings. However, then when Isiah tried to get past the problem he was unsuccessful. Isiah's friends and family members continued to ask why he was home from camp so early, reminding him of how stupid he had been and making him aware that he hadn't really resolved any of his problems at all.

Finally, Isiah realized there was no one to blame but himself. After owning his previous stupidity, Isiah reorganized his priorities and deliberately changed his behavior to fit them. Since then Isiah has developed relationships with other adults in the community by confronting and discussing what it means to make mistakes and how we all can learn from them. As it turns out, adults were teenagers once too. They know what it is like to have an error in judgment and make bad choices. We should acknowledge and then grow from our scummiest factors and gritty characteristics instead of denying them, because they are what make us into our best, unique selves.

Ultimately, after finding the positive in a seemingly negative experience, Isiah has, dare I say it, grown up. Besides his story's controversial premise and his working title "How I Got Fired From Camp," it fits the Common Application's criteria for an essay about a significant influence on his life.

Obviously, an applicant's essay is intended to help them be accepted to college, but what colleges really want to hear in those essays remains complex and unclear. As it stands now, college applicants should censor their essays instead of being forthwith and providing the complete truth. However, each individual reserves the right to decide between projecting a safe, but gilded image of themselves, or presenting themselves honestly and unapologetically in the college essay.