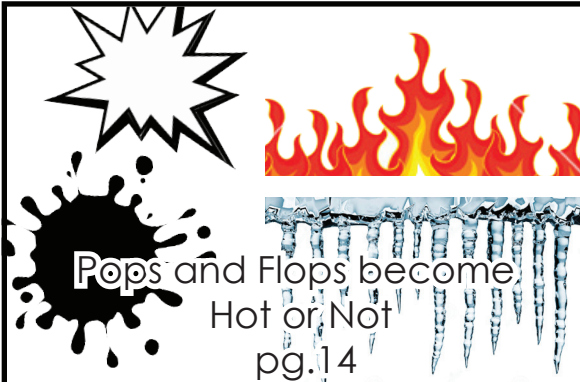


# THE SPECTATOR

November 2014



Volume LXV • Issue 2



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**No Shave November**  
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**DRIVE-THRU**

"Honk if you like  
dead people!"

**Drive-thru funeral home**  
pg.17

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# Ask Dr. Doctor Bennett

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart is a professional human relationships and behavioral advisor. He received his education from the monks who raised him since his unusual birth—when over the Himalayas, several bright, puffy clouds parted, giving way to a rainbow, and the little infant floated down from the mountain. The monks named him Doctor (yes, first name Doctor) Bennett Hart. Through several years of perfecting his craft, Hart is now ready to share his unique gift with the BHS student body. Please, feel free to share your concerns with him, as he will guide you to a happy, righteous life. *To submit anonymous questions to Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart, go to ask.fm/SpectatorAskBennett.*

**If you could live forever, would you want to?**

If I could live forever, I definitely would want to. One reason why I think this would be great is because I could visit an endless number of places. Traveling is one of my favorite things, and I think it would be cool to see all corners of the world and experience all the different cultures. Another reason why living forever would be great is because I could watch society progress. Over one lifetime, philosophers are able to make revelations that can change the thinking of people worldwide. If I could use the privilege of living forever in the field of philosophy, I would be able to develop deeper theories, and actually be able to confirm them over time. I believe that if someone could live forever, it could help all of society, because the wisdom they would be able to spread would be unmatched.

## The Meh List: Not good, not bad, just meh.

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

1. The 1980s
2. Arbor Day
3. Radioshack
4. New Hampshire
5. Ankle-high socks



Inspired by the *New York Times Magazine*'s "The Meh List"

Photos courtesy of the Wikimedia Commons user

**What is the one thing you'd most like to change about the world?**

If I could change one thing about the world, I would eliminate all diseases and viruses. This would make living people more healthy which would make them feel better in general.

**How does one become friends with someone they've never talked to before?**

Talk to them, get to know them better, and then be nice to them—kindergarten style. Everyone would like to meet someone new to talk to, do not be afraid.

**Is life as a ginger harder than the life of others?**

I believe life as a ginger is exactly the same as life for anyone else, except a ginger has red hair and the occasional freckle. Unfortunately I have never been anything but a ginger in my life, so I cannot confirm this. Maybe everything I do has different results just because I am a ginger. We will never know...

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The *Spectator* Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: look for senior Jacob Coutu hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165/116 and show her where Coutu is! If you are the first to do so, your name will be taken down, and you will be hidden in the next issue.



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## 6 THE SPECTATOR

# Three Denver teens attempt to join ISIS, arrested

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor and Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

On Oct. 21, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) tracked down three American teenage girls in Germany. They were en route to Syria to join the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, a militant group more commonly known as ISIS.

The three girls from the Denver, Colorado area have not been identified as of late due to the fact that they are minors, but a Colorado school official can confirm that it was two sisters, ages 17 and 15, and a 16-year-old friend. The girls were supposedly victims of an online predator, who encouraged them to travel overseas, eventually ending in Syria.

According to MSNBC, the girls told various law enforcement officials that their intent was "to fulfill what they believe is some vision that has been put out on a slick media campaign," by radical groups in Syria, including ISIS. A federal law enforcement source also informed them about the case, stating that the two sisters are Somalian and the 16-year-old, is Sudanese. Officials are beginning to become worried by the trend of teens in America and the Middle East who are becoming radicalized by ISIS philosophies.

However, there has been a wide-spread appeal in ISIS by women globally, especially by those who have some sort of connection to the Middle East. In an online article from MSNBC, it is stated that despite continuous reports that members of ISIS enslave, rape, torture, and stone women, women continue to join the ranks of ISIS. Roughly 10 percent of recruits from the West are women, and ISIS seems to be expanding its female recruitment. In mid-October, ISIS launched al-Zawra, a propaganda campaign promoting videos that teach women to cook, sew, and use weapons.

The girls were detained at an airport in Frankfurt, Germany and sent directly back to the Denver suburb of Aurora due to the simple fact that they were unaccompanied minors under federal suspicion of illegal activity. According to CBS News, when interviewed by the FBI, citizens of their community said the sisters of Somali descent and their friend who is of Sudanese descent seemed to be decent girls prior to the event.

A U.S. official said that evidence gathered for the case made it clear that the girls were

in fact headed to Syria. Still though, officials have yet to determine what sort of contact they had within Syria and specifically, with ISIS.

The girls' parents officially reported them missing on Oct. 17 after they skipped school. They had taken passports and \$2,000 in cash from the home of the sisters' parents. U.S. authorities immediately informed German authorities at the airport about the three missing minors arriving alone on their way to Turkey. Once caught, the three girls were detained by German police, with approval from a judge, and returned voluntarily to the U.S. on Sunday, Oct. 19. Once home, the girls told a deputy they went to Germany for "family" but would not initially elaborate.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Denver would not say whether prosecutors plan to charge the girls with a crime. State prosecutors said they have no imminent plans to charge the girls. It was also stated by their school officials that they would not face any sort of scholastic discipline.

Steven Pomerantz, former chief of counter-terrorism at the FBI, told CBS News' Charlie D'Aagata that some young Muslim girls are being lured toward jihad as a way of giving meaning to their lives. Whether this is the case for the three young Denver girls, is still undetermined.

Over the past several weeks, countless foreign fighters from dozens of nations have been traveling to the Middle East to join ISIS and other terrorist organizations. With this extreme threat, U.S. officials have recently been making efforts to try and understand what radicalizes people far removed from the fight, in order to try and keep them from joining.

The fate of the three Denver girls is still being decided, and their case has yet to reach the Federal Courts, but is suspected to do so at a later date. Until then, U.S. officials will continue the investigation on the three suspects as well as, work to prevent youths from joining terrorists groups like ISIS.



The Colorado girls made it all the way to Germany before being sent back home.

Photo courtesy of channel 4 Fox News KC

## Hope does not sink

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

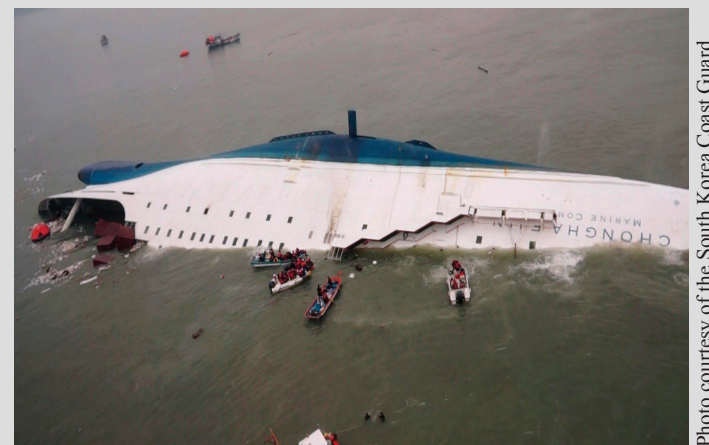
On Oct. 27, prosecutors pushed for the death penalty for Lee Joon-Seok, captain of the South Korean Sewol ferry boat that capsized on April 16, 2014. As of Nov. 11, Seok was sentenced to 36 years in jail for abandoning the ship causing injury and death with a possibility of appeal. The captain and other crew members, many of whom are going to serve up to 20 years in jail, were initially charged with murder after prematurely abandoning the ship and leaving nearly 300 people to perish. Most of the people stranded were school children on a field trip and nine are still considered missing this day.

In the past few months, public outrage has surfaced in South Korea due to the actions of the Sewol crew. Prosecutors allege that the crew neglected to use safety devices such as life vests and life rafts during the event. The embarrassment grew when information surfaced that some of the crew members may have been intoxicated and that the captain was strangely in his underwear when he was rescued.

According to the Washington Post, the crew failed to notify passengers that the ferry was sinking and the coast guard was not informed by the crew as to the number of passengers aboard the boat.

Discoveries have been made regarding Yoo Byung-Eun, a billionaire who owned the Sewol. Byung-Eun hid information about the amount of people the boat could hold and funneled money out of the company. His story was shrouded in even more mystery after his partially decomposed body was found on June 12, 2014 in a field in Suncheon, South Korea. He was reported to have fled after the sinking of the ferry.

With all the tragedy surrounding the occurrence, families of the deceased were able to get some closure on Nov. 11 when a verdict was announced.



The South Korean Sewol ferry tragically sank on April 16, 2014 and many of the people on the ship are still missing.

Photo courtesy of the South Korea Coast Guard via Yonhap

# Standing out in the crowd: Crazy fans make a name for themselves

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor and Drew Leshman '17, Hot or Not Editor

One of the most exhilarating feelings for a sports fan is being able to watch their favorite team live. Obviously, every fan wants to impact their team, and do so by cheering in the crowd or heckling the opposing players. However, some fans decide to go above and beyond in doing this, by provoking others to ask of the limit as to what fans can and cannot do at a sporting event. "There is no limit [on what one can do at a sporting event]," sophomore Jonah Stern said. There are many fans in agreement with Stern, especially since there were several of these intriguing fans featured in the most recent World Series.

One notable Miami Marlins' fan, known as The Marlins Man, was spotted at several World Series games between the Kansas City Royals and the San Francisco Giants, wearing a head-to-toe bright orange outfit, sitting behind home plate. Considering the Marlins were not even in the playoffs this year, this super-fan is seen as hilarious by some, but offensive to others who think the Royals and Giants should have been the only ones in the spotlight. Junior Ari Marcus said, "[The Marlins Man] adds a new level of interest to the game," which many fans would agree with. Marcus continued, "I think he is funny." However, The Marlins Man was not the only notable fan at the very same World Series.

Also popular in the World Series games this year was Giants' outfielder Hunter Pence's unique look, which many opposing fans brought to attention when making signs. Everywhere Pence travels, he is followed by various cardboard clones of himself. For example, one fan brought in a picture of Marv, the tall robber from the *Home Alone* series, bringing attention to the fact that the two men look very similar. "I think it is funny to make fun of Hunter Pence because he is a weird guy," sophomore Brendan Radtke said.

Although the Royals lost the World Series, Kansas City can still take pride in knowing their fans were definitely more creative than the Giants' fans.

Legendary hockey hecklers, self-named The Green Men, are a staple at Vancouver Canucks games. These diehard fans dress in tight, green, full-body suits and sit next to the opposing team's penalty box, where they constantly antagonize any player serving his time in the box. "I think it is good for the sport to have well known fans because hockey is not the most [popular] sport. It gives it more attention," senior Max Dooley said. The Red Wings certainly could use these groups of fans at the Joe, as their attendance is not reaching their intended goals.

For basketball fans, March is the best month of the year due to the NCAA Men's college basketball tournament. College fans are always the wildest during the season, but one fan more recently stood out above the rest. University of Alabama fan Jack Blankenship became notable using "The Face," which is a huge cardboard cut-out of himself. Sophomore Sam Koretz said, "It is just funny in a game when it is supposed to be a silent moment and then all of a sudden you just see a giant face with the guy [holding the sign] making the same face." It is extremely out of the ordinary to see a sign of a random face in the crowd, especially when that fan has absolutely nothing to do with the actual performance on the court.

Many of these flamboyant fans can distract the players, which causes controversy among the professional sports leagues. As the limit continues to change, keep an eye out for these wild fans and their interesting tactics of interfering with the game, or even become a part of the action and do something special yourself.



Jack Blankenship, or "The Face," leads Alabama's student section.



Giants' outfielder Hunter Pence stares down the opposition.

## Thanksgiving: food, family, and football

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

The Detroit Marathon, the Woodward Dream Cruise and the Auto Show are traditions that Detroiters are very fond of. Additionally, each Thanksgiving day, the people of Detroit and surrounding suburbs share another tradition. Every year on the last Thursday of November, the Lions play a regular season game, dating all the way back to 1934. This ritual has become a great way for families to come together, eat festive foods and cheer on the beloved Lions, all while dressed in silver and Honolulu blue.

The history of the Lions' turkey day classic originates from the first owner of the Lions, G.A. Richards. Many other NFL teams regularly played games on this day. But due to the approaching World War II and the resulting shorter seasons, the NFL did not schedule any Thanksgiving games in 1941, as well as any other games in the subsequent years until the war ended in 1945. When the games resumed in 1945, it was decided that only one game would be played on Thanksgiving Day. With the exception of 1950 and 1952, the Detroit Lions were



Photo courtesy of Ciccone39

assigned a permanent Thanksgiving football game that is still in action today.

There are three games played on Thanksgiving, two of which are hosted by the Lions and the Dallas Cowboys, and the third with one team from each conference playing

another on a rotating basis. Since 2006, there has been a third game played with no fixed opponents. This year, the Lions will play at 12:30 p.m. on CBS against the rivaled Chicago Bears. The Dallas Cowboys will play a 4:30 p.m. game on FOX, against the Philadelphia Eagles, and the San Francisco 49ers will take on the Seattle Seahawks at 8:30 p.m. on NBC.

This game means more than just a win or a loss written in the books, but it is also our way to celebrate Thanksgiving to which we have grown so accustomed. Whether this routine consists of attending the game at Ford Field in downtown Detroit, or crammed together on a couch with turkey filled plates on laps, the significance and memories of Thanksgiving football are similar from one family to the next. Assistant principal Mr. Ron Kane said, "We eat dinner at halftime of the game. It's something my family and I enjoy doing every year." The Lions hope to send fans home to dinner happily after their game against the Bears.

## 8 THE SPECTATOR

# NFL, BPL and other sport leagues mull over international growth

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

The four major American sports leagues have been trying to spread their popularity beyond the borders of the United States for years. The NFL, NBA and MLB all play regular season games in other countries such as Japan, Australia, England, Canada and Mexico annually. In 2007-2011 the NHL played regular season games in 11 different European countries. Starting with preseason games and, more recently, expanding to regular season games, sport leagues that are primarily in one country are moving throughout the world, and the issue has become a controversial subject.

On Oct. 26, the Detroit Lions visited London to play a regular season game against the Atlanta Falcons. The Lions had to fly from Detroit to London which wasted a practice day. They also had to deal with the distractions of playing in another country, including special NFL International Series obligations, which include making appearances at certain events and interacting with kids as part of NFL initiatives. Getting into a regular routine is very important for professional athletes and having to stray away from these habits for a week can be detrimental for a NFL team. When the Lions kicked off their game against the Falcons, they quickly fell behind 21-0 before halftime. It was clear from the beginning of the game that, despite being the superior team, the Lions left their A-game in the U.S. due to the complications of playing a game at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. Once the Lions

finally woke up, the Falcons were clearly outmatched, and the Lions returned to Detroit with a 22-21 victory.

From a fan's standpoint, the game seemed unfair because only five other teams, none from the NFC north, have to deal with this inconvenience. Additionally, the International Series is disliked by many owners, since it takes one home game away from the standard eight per season, jeopardizing hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue.

Every year, when the London games roll around, the conversation about a potential franchise in London begins. Obviously, there are plenty of inconveniences that would come with expanding the NFL overseas, but there are also some potential advantages. Due to the many games played in London in recent years, it is believed that there would be a big enough interest in Europe to support a full time team that would be profitable. Entering London, one of the largest markets in the world, would help every team in the NFL because of revenue sharing arrangements in the collective bargaining agreement. A London team would also open the door for a television deal in Europe, which would generate massive amounts of money for the league.

Rumors surrounding the Barclays Premier League (BPL) and the prospects of them playing games in other countries has heated up since the conclusion of this summer's World Cup. With the popularity of soccer in the United States growing, the British based soccer league is

weighing the possibilities of playing games in the U.S.

Playing games overseas is potentially even more complicated for the BPL than it is for American-based leagues. First off, in the BPL, the number of home and away games is always the same for every team and that likely can not be altered. As a result, every team would need to play two games overseas. Another alternative would be adding one neutral site game for every team. The problem with one neutral site game per team is that each club would play one team for a third time, creating an unbalanced schedule.

If the BPL could find a way to overlook the issues with changing the schedule, they would still have to handle traveling issues. Midweek FA Cup, Capital One Cup, Champions League and Europa League matches would likely have to be moved on certain weeks; players could not be expected to play three days later after traveling overseas.

The number of regular season games played in other countries is rising in leagues globally. Although there are exponential inconveniences, they could be outweighed by the many potential advantages. It may take years to happen, but it seems that leagues are moving towards having teams in new countries. Although fans in the base countries for sports leagues around the world may oppose the worldwide movement, the financial gain is far too big to pass up.

## Red Wings to leave the Joe Destination: Olympia

Miles Berlin '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

Detroit has now revealed to the public that the Red Wings will be playing at Olympia Stadium, their old rink, in the near future. Owner of the Red Wings, Mike Illitch, commissioned the move back to Olympia, and the stadium will cost an estimated \$450 million to upgrade. For years, fans of the Red Wings have been complaining about the quality of Joe Louis Arena. "I think it is good for the city of Detroit," junior and varsity hockey player Zach Leonard said.

Fans are excited to see the new "super stadium" and hopefully, it will be home to many more Stanley Cup victories. Located more towards the center of the city, instead of near the river, the stadium should draw a whole new crowd of people, not just hockey fans.

"With a fresh young Red Wings team, I think they deserve a fresh new stadium," junior and hockey player Ryan Austin said. Hopefully, this will make the city and the team some well-deserved cash as a result of new and appealing facilities, helping the city of Detroit and the Red Wings to a better and more prosperous future in terms of both money and championships.

Olympia, also known as "The Old Red Barn" was opened in 1927 and closed in 1979. Some of the greatest hockey players in the world played in Olympia, and although the public loved the arena, it had to be closed due to the run down nature of its facilities. Joe Louis Arena opened in Olympia's place as the Red Wings' home.

The stadium was named after Joe Louis. He was one of the best boxers in the world and gained outstanding recognition through his career. Symbolically, he has come to represent the relentless Detroit spirit and that of the Red Wings.

## College playoff system updated: the newest final four

Justin Flood '17, Co-Circulation Manager

For the average college football fan, all the anxiety peaks on Tuesday when the Associated Press Top 25 rankings are revealed. For the first time in history, college football has integrated a playoff system championship. In this new system, four teams play in two semifinal games and the winners then advance to the championship game. The Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl host the two semifinal games, and the championship game's venue is selected based on bids submitted by cities, similar to the Super Bowl system.

Unlike the previous method of using computer rankings or polls to select the participants in the bowl games, there is now a 13-member committee that selects which teams make the playoffs. Much of the initial controversy concerning the new system is about the selection committee and the effects of bias, since nine out of the 13 members of the committee have previously or currently been affiliated with at least one team in the NCAA.

Because of the new system, there will be no more wondering about the possible bowl outcomes of those top few teams. Senior Joey Yaker said, "I like how the new system gives small conference teams who go undefeated an opportunity to make the playoffs." Other fans of these small teams are benefiting greatly because their teams now get the possibility of competing among the very top challengers for the championship.

No matter how these teams compete for the championship, college football brings fans together to enjoy their Saturdays. From the people who happen to watch a game once every few weeks to those who do not take their eyes off the screens every weekend, the innovation only brings more excitement to the sports world.



# Gamergate exposes the worst of the Internet

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

The gaming community has suffered a series of blows due to a growing online controversy called Gamergate. What started as a debate concerning journalism ethics, soon devolved into a war about video game culture.

It began with arguments over Zoe Quinn and her alleged sex scandal in which she used a relationship with a journalist to garner good reviews of her recently debuted game. That was just the gasoline to start the fire. Everything went up in flames when Anita Sarkeesian, a women's rights activist and games journalist, released a new video in her series regarding the degrading or stereotypical depiction of women in video games. Sarkeesian was already infamous in the gaming world as gamers consider her to be notoriously critical of their essence. In light of the recent events concerning Quinn, this led to more of a negatively charged whirlwind of controversy, now known as Gamergate. Enraged people sent both Quinn and Sarkeesian violent threats over the Internet as well as attempting to hack her accounts to gain her personal information along with other various forms of harassment.

As a result, they have brought much negative attention to gamers as a whole. Articles have been written about "the end of gamers." People associate their anger with a realization of the shifts that have taken place as to what a "gamer" used to be and has now become. Now that the definition is blurred by numerous genres of games, and some with a focus on consumerism, the old gamer identity of a pleasing solitary experience

is fading. Thus, certain journalists have reasoned the lashing out from gamers on the Internet is from the impact of their knowledge that their identity, which was once so strong, is dying.

However, the notion of their declining personality, peddled by gaming journalists, is false. The whole issue lies in Internet anonymity. Currently, the Internet is like the stereotypical wild west—too many outlaws and not enough sheriffs. This makes the Internet a dangerous environment in which to exist. It is one in which people will wreak havoc and then fade away as if they had never existed. It is a theoretical drive-by. Those aggressors lack empathy, and with no fear of the consequences, make certain that people know how they truly feel whether or not it causes harm. It is only those instigators that escalate the conflict simply because they can. They are not representative of the gamer culture as a whole, and should be ignored. As violent as their threats

may seem, they are empty, meaningless and people do not possess the abilities to follow them through.

The Gamergate Controversy may have shown the savageness of certain individuals, but they are outnumbered by the real gamers of today who appreciate video games as an art form and for their entertainment value, be it casual or competitive. When the dust settles, it will be certain that the gamer identity is not in fact dead.



## Graze is the new phase

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

Welcome to the new and improved world where one can order snacks by mail. Why make yourself a fancy meat tray or assemble a bowl of mixed fruits when you can have a pre-packaged box o' snacks delivered to your door? Graze is a healthy alternative way to snack. When a person enters the world of Graze (graze.com), he or she logs onto a website to sign up for the snacks and takes a short questionnaire. The questionnaire asks what kinds of nuts, fruits and flavors that they would enjoy or like to try. It then takes the results and decides what to include within a 'nibble box', or a 'calorie counter box'. The best part is that it only costs \$6.99 a box. What a steal.

From dried fruits to popcorn, Graze will deliver right to your door. It is a great way to change a person's eating habits without going on a diet or having to read labels. Every snack has healthy content inside which are represented by different symbols. Benefits of the snacks include, for 150 calories or less, protein and other foods made with whole oats.

You can get an array of 150 calories of popcorn that will provide long-term energy and is more beneficial than a bag of greasy, salty potato chips that will probably cause the classic afternoon crash.

Graze's policy is that if people do not enjoy the snacks that were shipped to them, they can return to the website and request to no longer receive that specific snack.

Graze will ship your snacks to your work or home, and it will take only about a week or two for your guilt-free treats to come to your door step.

This guilt-free creation is more efficient, and frankly cheaper than driving to your local grocery store and buying the off-brand, extra cheesy cheese puffs. Save money and get a lovely snack delivered right to your door. This is snacking reinvented.

## The man behind the hoodie

Miles Berlin '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

One of the most controversial laws is the one that outlaws graffiti. When people see a piece of graffiti they usually do not think that it could be worth much money, but they would be surprised how much a brick wall would be worth if the famous graffiti artist Banksy has painted on it. A genuine Banksy piece can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Pop singer, Christina Aguilera bought one of his works of art for \$46,000. Banksy's work started in London, but nobody knows where he currently lives. The name Banksy, is an alias. Banksy's real name is unknown, escalating the popularity of his pieces immensely.

Banksy portrays mostly his opinion on political issues through his graffiti. When Banksy's art is discovered, there is usually a mad dash to claim the wall or building side on which he has painted. There is speculation that the newest edition to the graffiti at the Packard plant in Detroit is Banksy. The piece shows a young child painting the words "I remember when all this was trees." In a controversial move, the city of Detroit excavated the piece and is selling it in one of their many gallery's.

Banksy's Academy Award winning documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop* shows him going around the city of London creating his artwork. The movie shows how street art has become one of the most popular forms of art during the 90s and a true art collector's collection is not complete without a piece of graffiti. Graffiti is a way to express oneself, illegal or not.



Photo courtesy of Stencil Revolution



Photo courtesy of Southwestern University



Photo courtesy of the Detroit Free Press

Banksy's art, including his piece at the Packard plant in Detroit (right), often fetches thousands of dollars.

## BHS community grows

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor and Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

This year, BHS is home to many new staff members. The Spectator hopes that you continue to get to know these new Bears by learning about some of their interests as we welcome them into our community.



### Mr. Brian Antioch

Geophysical Science

- **Hometown:** Allen Park, MI
- **College:** Michigan State University
- **Hobbies:** Watching Michigan State football, playing hockey and golf

"I love the community; I felt very welcomed by all of the students and staff."



### Mrs. Liz Fredlund

Algebra/Algebra II

- **Hometown:** Warren, MI
- **College:** Benedictine University
- **Hobbies:** Working out, going to concerts and hanging with friends

"All of the students are respectful and very nice and care about their teachers."



### Ms. Hillary Graveline

Guidance Counselor

- **Hometown:** Berkley, MI
- **College:** Central Michigan University
- **Hobbies:** Playing volleyball and softball, cooking
- **Favorite Food:** Pizza

"The staff is amazing, and the students are really diverse and all really respectful of each other."

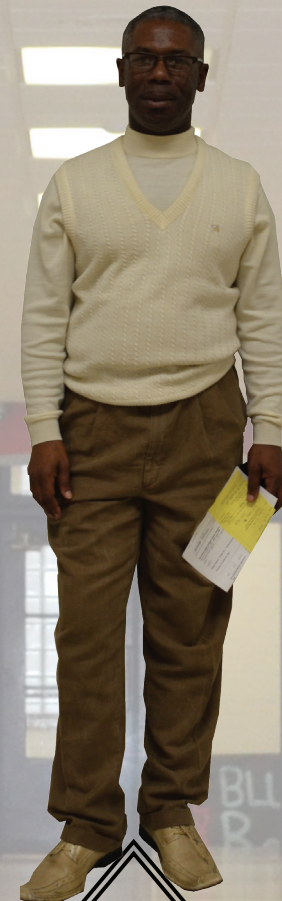


### Mrs. Christina Belsky

Guidance Counselor

- **Hometown:** St. Clair Shores, MI
- **College:** Wayne State University
- **Hobbies:** Playing with her son, Hank
- **Favorite Food:** Any type of pasta

"Shane Dooley [is my favorite]."



## The beloved man of BHS's halls

Zoe Blake '17, Assistant Photo Editor

On Oct. 29, I spent my fourth hour walking the halls, following the famous BHS hall monitor, Victor. With many interesting interactions between students and staff, I have learned a lot about him. Victor is a funny guy just doing his job. Here is what went down:

- 11:00:** Victor is spotted by the library talking to an unidentified source.
- 11:03:** Victor sees me and said "You're late, get to class, or get a pass!"
- 11:08:** Victor is seen inside the hall monitor room, talking on his walkie talkie about some hooligans in the science labs.
- 11:09:** Senior Kortland Avant walks down the hallway singing loudly, causing Victor to get up and see what is going on.
- 11:09:** Victor told Avant to stop singing, take off his hood, and get to class. Then he fist bumps Avant.
- 11:10:** I am hiding in Mrs. Hearne's room.
- 11:11:** A group of students asks Victor if he would like a bagel. He replied, "A bagel sounds good, but I don't [have any cash]."
- 11:13:** In the T, Victor yelled to a group of juniors, "FELLAS, WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE."
- 11:14:** Victor disappears into the elevator.
- 11:15:** I have lost him.
- 11:20:** I found him in Mrs. Sarris's room.
- 11:31:** Victor caught me spying on him and calls me out. I run to the library to find a safe place to hide.
- 11:34:** I come out of hiding, where he finds me, and I confess to following him.
- 11:36:** After my explanation of why I was following him, Victor said, "An article? About me? That's too nice!"



## Reasons to Celebrate in November

Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

### National Parfait Day

National Parfait Day is basically Ice Cream Sundae Day, but just a bit healthier. On Tuesday, Nov. 25, bust out your fanciest glasses and the longest spoons you can find because Parfait Day has arrived. Add vanilla ice cream, fruit, whipped cream and endless toppings together and create a blast in a glass. So be ready to experience the best frozen creation of your life.



### National Cashew Day

Finally, a day where you can openly act like a squirrel by stocking up on nuts and not be viewed as a weirdo. The only difference is that you will not be hibernating for months. This nutty holiday takes place on Nov. 23. You can spend all day making recipes like sweet cashews, salty cashews or cashew brittle. Go stock up on protein for winter, and then, maybe, take a nap.



### Have a Bad Day Day

Everyone has a bad day once in a while, and there are plenty of songs about them too. However, Have a Bad Day Day is not about equality and everyone having a bad day at once. This day, Nov. 19 to be exact, was intended for people to wish each other a bad day. This was mostly meant for sales workers after a customer makes a purchase. So go outside and wish some stranger a bad day, and you only get should it once a year.



### False Confessions Day

False Confessions Day is on Nov. 21. If you do not know what False Confessions Day is, then you are missing out. You can confess to pretty much anything you want, but to truly participate in False Confessions Day, the confession must be a lie. It is a very unique holiday and it is practically rule free. Just, make sure not to do anything that will cause harm to yourself and/or others. This is not a widely known holiday, so you could get in a lot of trouble for confessing to a pie robbery. Other than that, feel free to tell your best friend you used their toothbrush to scrub the floor or another random false confession.

## 12 THE SPECTATOR

# College rivalries hold students back

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

The immense task of applying to college is no secret to BHS seniors. They have done their best throughout their high school careers in order to impress a variety of universities, and now, they are in the applying process. However, students may be conflicted with applying to certain schools if two happen to be rivals. Students may only choose to apply to the one they align with because they do not want to be associated with the opposing school.

A college rivalry is a healthy way for colleges to compete with one another, most commonly through sports like football or basketball. Local rivalries include Michigan and Michigan State, and the fiercer, Michigan and Ohio State.

These opposing colleges will influence some students' decisions regarding which school to apply to. If given a choice to attend Ohio State, Marshall Deeds, a senior and Michigan fan said, "Never... Ohio State is off the books. [I] wouldn't even consider it." Attending Ohio State is not an option due to its bad blood with Michigan. If Ohio State happened to offer him plentiful scholarships, Deeds' choice would remain resolute.

On the other hand, the Michigan and Michigan State rivalry seems to be one that is easier

to overlook. Michigan fan and senior Starr Bialk said, "It is breaking my heart, but I am applying to both. You've got to do what you've got to do." Even though she and her family are strong supporters of Michigan, she realizes that there are benefits of applying to State as well.

While showing support for colleges is okay, holding their rivals in contempt outside of the football field or basketball court can have consequences. It is essential that seniors apply to all of the colleges that they desire, and more importantly, to the schools that have significant academic benefits for students. They also should be aware of the financial benefits of colleges. In today's world, the price of tuition is expensive, and for some, financial aid strongly influences what school students finally decide to attend. Keeping one's options open during the application process is vital, since particular colleges offer different benefits for students. Holding a grudge towards certain schools is detrimental to students because they miss out on special experiences that could have changed their future if they had looked at the bigger scheme of things.

## Battle of the burritos

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

Often at BHS, heated debates take place over which Mexican restaurant deserves the most kudos. There are the ones who devote themselves to Chipotle, and there are those who recognize Zumba as their holy place. Lastly, and maybe least, depending on who you ask, there are those who dedicate their souls to Qdoba. The rationale behind this extreme devotion to one of these Mexican restaurant remains unknown, well, until now.



While it may be the underdog of the three Mexican restaurants, Zumba is definitely gaining its own group of devoted customers. Although some may claim that their "bowl-rittos" may be a knock off of Chipotle's burrito bowls, there are rumors going around that the "bowl-rittos" have become more highly regarded than Chipotle's bowls. Also, because it is not as well known, the lines are shorter, making the Zumba experience more enjoyable. "The lines are always shorter at Zumba because it is not as mainstream," junior Gabrielle Blatz said. Blatz continued to say, "The chicken at Zumba is tender, and the chicken at Qdoba is awful." Even though Zumba may not be the go-to restaurant, it is gaining popularity amongst BHS students.

VS



Chipotle is stereotypically known throughout the BHS community as the original Mexican food paradise. The burritos can shockingly perform the extremely challenging task of filling up a 17-year-old boy. Their rice is one of their biggest claims to fame. Yet, the lines at this favored Mexican restaurant seem to be almost as big as their burritos. The everlasting crowd of people is one of Chipotle's major downfalls and prevents a lot of people from taking the trip down Woodward to eat there. However, junior Emily Wolford said, "I find the service there better because there is an app where you can order ahead of time. My food is always there waiting for me." This revolutionary app could possibly influence people to "convert" to Chipotle, making it the most favored Mexican restaurant.

## BHS boycotts shaving

Drew Leshman '17, Pops and Flops Editor

The month of November is known for containing many holidays and celebrations all across the world. These include Thanksgiving, Election Day, Veterans' Day and of course, the well-known tradition known as No Shave November.

No Shave November is an annual event for BHS and it is a visually enjoyable and scratchy way to raise money for "The Haven." In the past years, teachers and students are selected to be participants every year. This selected bunch is then required to shave every spec of hair off their face starting Nov. 1 and

put the razor down until the end of the month, when the competition concludes. Individual participants in the competition have a can dedicated to their picture inside of the Student Service Center. The rest of the student body is then encouraged to go and buy tickets, which are sold in quantities of three for \$1, in order to vote for whichever contestant they would like to win. All of the money that is raised will go directly to "The Haven" shelter, a safe home for domestic violence victims.

# The band comes marching in

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

On Oct. 7, the Berkley High School marching band competed at Royal Oak High School for their annual fall Festival. There, they received straight 1's, the highest score possible, for their performance. This is the second time in the last three years that the BHS marching band was rewarded all 1's during the competition.

At Festival, high school marching bands from across the Metro-Detroit area, in District Four of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), perform their half-time shows in front of a panel of judges and thus are rated on how well they do. Three judges (a musical judge, a general effects judge, and a marching judge) rate each high school marching band's performance based on a one to five scale. It is extremely rare for a high school marching band to receive three 1's while at Festival, making this success a great feat for the BHS marching band and an even greater accomplishment for it to happen a second time.

Senior Sarah Rivers, who is section leader for the BHS marching band flutes, takes great pride and seriousness in the competition every year. Rivers admits that it is a challenging experience, especially since this year she has had to lead an entire section of performers in the BHS marching band. "I have to make sure that every single person in the flute section performs their absolute best at Festival," Rivers said. She believes that if she can be in control of her section while having a positive attitude that encourages her team to have fun while also performing to their greatest ability, then her section, along with the rest of the band, is sure to have a successful show.

As a rule, Rivers feels that the band is able to take away something new each year from their time at Festival. "Festival is essentially constructive criticism. We, as a band, learn new ways to perform while watching other marching bands from the area. Through the judges

individual scores, we are able to see what we can improve for next year whether it is the type of music we play or the sort of visual effects we include in our half-time show. It is really helpful," Rivers said.

With their success at Festival, the BHS marching band has moved up a classification within the competitions, advancing them from classification A to AA for next year's Festival. The classifications range from D to AA, and as a band moves into higher classifications,

they are appraised by the judges according to more difficult standards. Though Rivers will not be able to perform with the BHS marching band next year, she is confident that they will do just as good, if not better, than this year.

With the success of the BHS marching band at Festival this fall, Rivers is excited to see how the Symphony band will perform at their dedicated Festival competition this coming spring, in mid-March. Hopefully, they will see the same success that the marching band has had recently, and based on the BHS band's altogether skill and talent, it is no doubt that they surely will.



Photo courtesy of Hana Coon

Drum Major junior Hana Coon leads BHS marching band to first place.

## Black Friday: The good, the bad, and the crazy

Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

Black Friday is a shopaholic's Super Bowl. It is the time of bruised up faces, for that waffle maker, and frostbite from the harsh conditions. Whether one goes to hang out with friends, or is on a mission for that cheese garter they have been dying for, this is the most exhilarating shopping event of the year.

There are four kinds of shoppers on Black Friday: the die hards, the newbies, the pros and the minglers. Each one has traits that distinguish them from other shoppers. The trick to this holiday is to know the enemy's strengths and weaknesses.

The die hards are on a mission. They are the ones that can be seen on the news for assaulting a fellow buyer for a really good deal on a TV. They may cause serious bodily harm if challenged. If surrounded by die hards, start up a conversation about a really good deal to fake a distraction. Timing is key for this; one must start the conversation right before the doors open so they can get a 2-second head start. Be Mr. Smart Guy while everyone else fights like children.

The newbies should be the least of everyone's worries. They come to the stores right when they open. Rookie mistake. People usually line up for hours at a store, so arriving at 7 in the morning puts them in the back of super daunting lines. They also do not know what they are going to get, and the majority of the time they are just at the mall for the deals, not to buy 20 bottles of soap for a dollar. Not fully understanding the concept of Black Friday shopping, they can easily be taken advantage of or just get in the way. If one is planning on going Black Friday shopping for the first time, they should do their research. It might just save them time, money, and injuries for the meandering first timer.

The pros are the highest ranked shoppers and know every trick in the book. Coming every year, they look for deals and plan ahead, sometimes even months in advance. Being the most skilled of all Black Friday shoppers, they only bring one or two friends. Just enough not to slow them down, but enough to get a second opinion if needed. Amazingly efficient and experienced, pros have no weaknesses. Stay out of their way and take notes.

The minglers are there for the culture and conversations, not for the deals. This group consists mostly of teenage girls hanging out with friends and window shopping. They are not a threat, however they can flirt (or at least attempt to) their way to the top. Do not underestimate their abilities.

Every shopper is unique and each one makes up the foundation of Black Friday. If one is missing, the night wouldn't be as exhilarating. So avoid those die hards, take advantage of the newbies, watch out for the minglers and become a pro.



Photo courtesy of gamingbolt.com

Electronics stores are a very popular destination.



Photo courtesy of Soerfm and Magnus Manske

Shoppers stand in seemingly endless lines to find the best deals possible.

# The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of November

## Superhero TV

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

As the fandom for superheroes continues to grow, those who are the fanatics will be pleased with the growing media for the comic genre. With the recent success of big superhero movies including *The Avengers* and *The Dark Knight* trilogy in the past few years, it makes sense that big comic book companies would want to cash in on the American television audience as well. The fact is that most superhero movies are released in the spring and summer, leaving a dry spell for fans. Shows have recently emerged such as *The Flash*, *Gotham* and *Constantine* this fall on three different networks. These shows have expanded upon the initial 2013 Marvel superhero, bringing fresh ideas and excitement to superhero programming. People are now able to see more frequent representations of their favorite fictional characters from the comfort of their homes.

## Holiday decorations

Justin Flood '17, Co-Circulation Manager

It is that time of year again where the inner holiday spirit comes out of everyone. Walking through the streets of Metro-Detroit, one might wonder how someone could possibly have their holiday decorations up already, as it is only November. Most people find this obnoxious and quite irritating, especially from the perspective of a neighbor. The competition in which people cover their house with lights and eye-catching amusements for the most holiday spirit annoys all that do not participate. What many think is unnecessary, is what the few crazy holiday fanatics live for each year. It is something that everyone will have to endure prior to, during and after the holiday season.

## Kill the Messenger

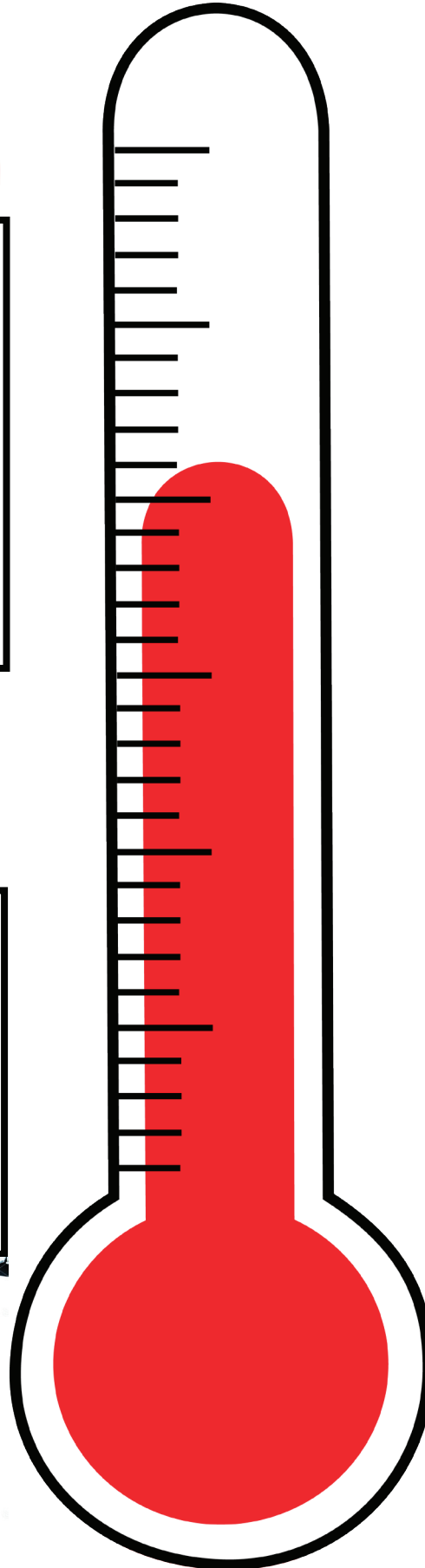
Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

A flick to catch this November is *Kill the Messenger*. This docu-drama is based on the true story of small-time journalist Gary Webb. Webb, played by Jeremy Renner, stumbles upon information involving the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who is supporting the source of the crack epidemic while also funding rebel fighters in Nicaragua. Webb features this troubling information in his article series "The Dark Alliance," which ultimately puts his family and friends in danger. This movie is filled with action and mystery that keeps the viewer on the edge of their seat for the two hours of run time. Renner's performance is outstanding; he appears to be an outsider but fights for the good of all people using his journalistic skills. *Kill the Messenger* is a thriller that definitely should not be missed.

## Mean Girls

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Every single person (or at least most of the girls) who goes to BHS knows the movie *Mean Girls*. If they do not, they should probably crawl out from under their rock. That being said, the following statements may offend a majority of the BHS female population. The movie is no doubt one of the most quotable films ever, but it is just getting old. Yes, the movie is iconic, but it has been referenced for too many years. This movie is seen by some as something to idolize and hold in the highest regard; it even has entire twitter accounts dedicated to it. But the time for *Mean Girls* is now up, and while it was a great movie 10 years ago, people need to move on because it is getting old.



# Choosing indecision

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Undecided. This is something every individual is at one point or another in their life. However, for teenagers, this tends to occur more frequently. On our minds is anything and everything, from the hottest person in school to what grade we got on the last math test. Adolescents are a bunch of scatterbrains. We have thousands of things to contemplate, and we try to accomplish them all at once. Truth be told, this racing thought process is not very effective. At certain times, this weakness plays a major role in whether or not we make the right choice, or any choice at all for that matter. Indecisiveness is not always the best characteristic and can sometimes negatively affect the lives of those suffering from it. A prime example of this is the college decision process.

There are multiple judgment calls one must make in order to make a definite final decision. Individuals must decide on which major they want to pursue, if they want to stay in state or go out of state, which university is their top choice or if they even want to attend college at all. This plethora of options can be some of the most stressful and life altering choices we, as people, make in our entire lives. None of these are easily answerable questions and therefore take a lot of assurance in one's decision making skills. Sadly, teens tend to lack the confidence needed to make a final verdict on any topic, let alone one so influential to their futures.

However, did anyone ever decide to stop and think, "Hey, maybe it is okay to not have all the answers yet?" That would be a big, fat no. Lacking in confidence, teenagers

often take the opinion of their peers and elders over what their gut instinct is telling them. This is the result of adolescents being told their whole lives, "having no answer is the wrong answer" by elders, teachers and peers alike. Not to mention most are constantly badgered regarding the need to know what they want regarding what they want to do or be in the future. Senior Lily Queen said, "Now is our time for trial and error. It is the time for us to change our minds." We are not robots; we are human beings. Therefore, we are bound to experience trial and error throughout every choice we make or do not make.

Students, seniors in particular, struggle to make choices day in and day out. These choices, nonetheless, can be assisted by various role models or support systems in one's life. This ranges from BHS teachers and counselors to one's parents and friends. Counselor Mrs. Robyn Weiss said, "The unknown upon graduating high school and thereafter is completely normal." She added, "There are a lot of components that make up one's choice for college, and it is okay to take the time to think the decision through."

Hearing an adult sympathize with this everyday struggle should be reassuring to individuals filled with endless doubt. There is hope for all the hesitant decision-makers. The answers will come. Just take the time to think thoroughly about the choices thrown one's way, and everything will fall into place at its own speed. Slow and steady wins the race, so do not rush, or decide, for anyone but yourself.

# The ultimate publicity stunt

Jessie Cohen '17, Co-Circulation Manager



Photo courtesy of Celest Prize

Popular singer Amy Winhouse becomes more famous after death.

It is inevitable that popular celebrities will eventually fall out of the spotlight. Despite this, there is one final stunt that will always bring the media's attention back to them: death. It is appalling how the public and media will completely ignore a person, but the moment they die all the world hears about is how much they were loved and appreciated. This is a nice sentiment, but it is also a huge falsehood. He or she may have been appreciated, respected or idolized at one time, but all the people who claim to love them and be their biggest fan have, more likely than not, ignored them since their prime. Even if a person was not looked favorably upon while they were living, his or her death seems to automatically make them a better person. Thus, any bad reputation a celebrity may have earned during his or her life seems to become irrelevant. This holds true for most people, from past presidents to superstars.

Ronald Reagan, although a rather historic example, exemplifies this phenomenon. During Reagan's presidency, the media was merciless. They continually called him a hypocrite and mocked him for his past as a B-list actor. His approval rate in January 1983 was only 35 percent. Nonetheless, this is not the Reagan we hear about today, ten years after his death. The Daily Signal calls him courageous, prudent, wise and fair. Economically, he was considered a less than successful president, and no one tried to cover that up. Why should the public's opinion of him change after his death?

The public's view of a person should not alter after that person's death. If they were not praiseworthy during their life, then in death they should not be remembered

differently. People claim to have always been fans or supporters, when in reality not everyone has been a lifelong fan of that particular celebrity. The majority of the public has probably completely forgotten about that person and ignored him or her until death brought them back to the public's attention. A few weeks later, the audiences will forget all about them again.

Another example of this behavior is Amy Winehouse. As a musician, she was appreciated and had devoted fans, but as a person she was less than respected. Winehouse had numerous drug problems and died of an overdose. Despite this, she is always remembered in a positive light. Sophomore Camryn Archambault said, "No one really has great opinions of [celebrities] during their life, [and] then suddenly everyone's in love with them [after they pass]." This is especially true for Winehouse and other celebrities, who fall into the whirlwind of drugs and alcohol. Despite being criticized for their habits and it ultimately resulting in their demise, people remember them fondly in death. Winehouse is no exception. Her music is seemingly even more respected post mortem. Now, more than three years later, people do not seem to care about her darker habits, just that she was a beautiful singer/songwriter.

These shifting ideas are a part of life, so we should not claim that they are not. However, just because they occur does not mean they are right or necessary. Opinions should never alter only because someone has passed. A person is who they are and this should not be changed, even by death.

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## Football player under suspicion of normality

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

Starting linebacker for the Portland Stars, Andrew Phillips, is under suspicion by the National Football League for leading a normal life. An investigation into his personal affairs has been launched to determine whether the accusations that he lives a productive life are true. Allegations against Phillips include being a good father for his 4-year-old daughter, a loving husband and a charitable benchmark of his community.

Richard Lyndon, the commissioner of the NFL, released a statement shortly after the incriminating accusations came to light. "This kind of amicable behavior simply does not match the kind of conduct we have come to expect of our players," Lyndon said. The NFL is expected to take immediate action against Phillips, with several team owners calling for a lifetime ban from the league.

"The immense pressure on a professional football player can lead to adequate human behavior in certain, specialized cases," NFL psychologist Elliott Wilmer said. Teammates have described Phillips as "a high functioning member of society" and "an upstanding citizen." Portland Stars quarterback Felix Denman said he was shocked by the claims against Phillips, saying, "I never expected this of him, he always seemed like a regular guy just like the rest of us." Running back Brandon Evered was not so sure. "He says strange things sometimes. He talks about his wife and daughter really respectfully. We all know about his anonymous donations to charity, even though he doesn't like to talk about it," Evered said.

In 2008, Phillips was accused by several teammates of having never taken performance enhancing drugs. Drug tests consistently turned up negative. After this incident, Phillips'

integrity was brought into question forever. "He always politely turned down the drugs when we offered them to him," Portland Stars wide receiver Carter Lindon said. "It made me really uncomfortable."

The Spectator met up with Phillip's wife, Molly, for an exclusive interview. When asked about her husband's ordinariness she said, "What are you doing in my living room?" Mrs. Phillips cut off the interview at this point. When asked if he truly does live a normal and honest life, Phillips said, "Uh, yeah. What's your point?" This apparent confession will likely be invaluable for the investigation into Phillips' life in the upcoming months.



Photo courtesy of Lehigh Valley Live

After a successful play, Phillips' celebrates with a teammate.

## Ebola: scarier than we thought

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

EBOLA. That's right, it is in capital letters because it is that serious. Ebola came over from Africa near the end of September, and since then, everyone is literally (because it is one of the effects of Ebola) and figuratively losing their s\*\*\*. Ebola is a lot scarier than we once thought. Many assumed Ebola couldn't be any worse because of the 24/7 news coverage, the end of the world cries, and the impact it has had in politics, but we underestimated the effects of Ebola.

Before this new discovery, we thought that Ebola can be contracted if you are bled, spat, or defecated on by someone with Ebola, but it is not that hard. Now it is known that if you come in contact with someone who walked by someone who gently grazed past someone who shared the same food as someone who is distantly related to someone with Ebola, then you may have Ebola. Other ways you can catch Ebola include but are not limited to: watching an Oakland Raiders' football game, wearing three or more denim articles of clothing at one time, and/or saying the word 'Ebola' while looking in a mirror at midnight and spinning around three times. New symptoms can include an itch, growing hair out of your arms, being aware of your surroundings most of the time, having a strong desire to wear clothes, and suffering mild pain at some part of your body for small amounts of time.

If you are showing any signs of these symptoms, for the good of us all, please stay in your house, locked away in your room for the rest of your (probably now short) life. If you are not showing any signs, you should probably also stay in your room, just to be safe.



Photos courtesy of Kritien Joerger and U.S. Golbal Resources

Immediate house quarantine is encouraged for all individuals at risk of Ebola.

# Mass hysteria in the media

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The role that the media plays within our society, throughout all of history, is to inform the public about current global events of the world. The way that these outlets choose to portray this information can be extremely influential in the way that the public perceives certain topics.

Recently, the media has been covering pressing issues that threaten people's lives most specifically, Ebola and ISIS. These issues are dangerous and do need to be dealt with, but the way that people have been reacting to Ebola and ISIS stems from sheer widespread media-induced panic. The news is covering these matters as if they are trying to raise fear instead of awareness surrounding them. They base most of what they are saying in an effort to gain more viewers.

In the places that these problems are present, the immediate danger is without a doubt something to be worried about. The issues are posing a real threat to those in the directly affected areas of Iraq and West Africa. In America, however, the public is taking on these issues as if they are just as prominent here. Being informed about events around the world is one thing, but the media takes these issues and tries to make them as applicable to the American public as possible. This means that they go one step past the normal unease about these issues and make it seem as if our life is as threatened as those from West Africa and Iraq. Most of the time, people will relate to an issue if there is a common fear for humanity involved. The media takes advantage of this and they induce panic which can cause an issue to be blown out of proportion.

Instead of focusing on making these issues into a captivating topic that they can use to draw people in, the media should be informing the public about the things that can make a difference. Focusing attention on the victims of these horrible matters could raise awareness and lead people in the direction of helping victims instead of fearing for their own lives.

Raising awareness of what is actually going on could lead to a cure for Ebola or a way to defeat ISIS through rational thought that is not clouded by fear caused by the media.

However, the news is more concerned with capturing an audience with a sensationalized current event that people will want to hear and read about than reporting completely accurate information. Junior Sakina Toure said, "Since the news has reported these things, they have become a lot scarier and more widespread." Obviously, if there is something posing a threat to one's life, the public is going to want to be as informed about it as possible.



News agencies use sensationalized headlines to attract viewers.

Photo courtesy of Think Progress

The news is using sensationalism in order to keep the viewers interested, and as a result, the credibility of the information is called into question by the general public. The news reports the facts surrounding ISIS and Ebola, but the way in which they do so is through tactics that cause unease. The imminent danger that they inform the public about is just as deceptive as giving false information. Senior Andy McIntire said, "The news has always been a platform to pump the public full of fear and has become less of a source of information and more of a source of imposing doom."

The panic and sensationalist approach of reporting Ebola and ISIS is something that has been seen many times in the past. People are the hysterical notions because they want to follow the majority of the population. Think about the conversations that have been discussed recently—they almost without a doubt have included some mention of Ebola or ISIS. They are compelling and captivating topics, and people are quick to latch on to the first thing that they hear about concerning these issues. The media usually gives the public some startling fact to grab their attention, and their mind is made up from there.

This nation has become fearful of things that are pretty scary, but instead of putting the public at ease, the media is adding fuel to the fire in order to captivate an audience through fear.

# Honk if you like dead people

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

Have you ever forgotten that somebody died? Are you trying to avoid possible awkward conversations with family members or old friends? Do you not like the way dead people smell? Are you just really lazy? Then no need to fear, the drive-thru funeral home is here.

In the past 30-ish years, increasing numbers of businesses have been providing the option of drive-thru services. The invention of the drive-thru (much like cell phones and cars) is to provide people with such convenience that they barely have to move in order to get the one thing they want accomplished, whether it be sending a text or arriving at a desired destination. Drive-thru businesses have rapidly expanded throughout America such as Starbucks, McDonalds, Little Caesars and, a personal favorite, the local funeral home.

In the heart of Saginaw, Michigan, there lies a place called Paradise Funeral Home. This funeral home offers what your average funeral home does, but with an exciting twist. The owners of this fine establishment found it a marvelous idea to install an "optional drive-thru viewing window" which allows people to pay their last respects without having to move from their car. When entering the drive-thru, people are able to sign a register book, drop a memorial card into the memorial box and sit in a car for a total of three minutes while paying final respects. So much time for activities.

This, my people, is what America has truly been waiting for. This is the epitome of life, or death, itself. This is the future. Not only will this rid people of the burden of having to get out of their car and walk thirty feet to the funeral home to pay their respects to lost loved ones, but it will also give us citizens in America another excuse to be lazy, fat and just overall lacking in empathy.



Photo courtesy of NBC

A fast way to honor your dearly departed if you can not spare the time to leave your car.



## 18 THE SPECTATOR

## Hollywood arrives in East Lansing

Jessie Cohen '17, Co-Circulation Manager

The next installment in the Batman series, *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, directed by Zack Snyder, has begun filming in and around the city of East Lansing. Much of the movie is to be shot on the Michigan State campus, and students could not be more thrilled. Batman, played by Ben Affleck, even took a break from filming to surprise the Spartan football team by lifting weights with them. The team was so excited about the filming that at the Michigan v. Michigan State game on Oct. 25, the mascot, Sparty, came decked out in a Batsuit.

Affleck has also had time to visit Detroit. He reflected on the time he has spent in the city in an interview with the *Detroit Free Press*. "I love [Detroit]. It's made a big impression on me," Affleck said. He and his wife, fellow actress Jennifer Gardener, have enjoyed getting to know the city. They have been spotted riding

bikes by Shinola and celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary at Royal Oak's Bistro 82. After touring some automotive factories, Affleck even decided to trade in his Japanese cars for Ford and General Motors products.

John Lauter is the uncle of freshmen Katie and Joey Wolberg. He will be playing an extra in *Batman v. Superman* and said, "I liked the idea of being an extra because I thought it would be cool to be part of a movie." Lauter continued, "I like movies a lot, but it never crossed my mind to be in one because I am not an actor. I was hoping to get a look at the Batsuit, or maybe some cool sets."

Excitement is growing as Michigan residents anticipate seeing their favorite Detroit and East Lansing hotspots on the big screen. This sequel to *The Dark Knight Rises* is expected to release on March 25, 2016.



Affleck takes the mic to pass on words of encouragement to the Spartans.

Photo courtesy of MSUCcommunication.

## Eat your heart out, literally

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

The idea of a zombie apocalypse in the near future, or ever for that matter, is a vastly contested subject. This concept has been portrayed in various forms over the years. However, none have taken such a fresh perspective, one so completely outside of the box and drawing to the audience, other than the AMC hit television series, *The Walking Dead*.

*The Walking Dead*, created by Frank Darabont, has been eating away at Americans' brains since it aired on Oct. 31, 2010. The show is based on a post-apocalyptic comic series depicting life in the United States, specifically Georgia, during a global time of survival of the fittest.

Throughout the series, there has been everything from cannibalism and cold blooded murders, to the loss of loved ones and the addition of new comrades. Like no other show prior, *The Walking Dead* takes viewers nationwide on a non-stop rollercoaster ride that relies on the survival of the human race.

Even at BHS, students are "fan girling" over the series. Senior Lexi Bartosik said, "The cinematography allows for so much foreshadowing and suspense that it truly draws me into the actual story line." As a student interested in film, Bartosik appreciates the hard work put into every aspect of the filming process. "The actors are so realistic and emotive so skillfully that I honestly feel like the show is actually happening," Bartosik continued, believing that the choice of cast is part of what makes the show so engaging.

On the other hand, there are individuals at BHS are not so fond of

*The Walking Dead*. The reasoning behind their discontent with the show can be anything from the concept being too frightening and gory, to the acting not being up to par with their personal standards based off of years of watching television. Sophomore Veronica Evans said, "I used to watch it, but it was too boring for me. The story line moved way too slow, and it just caused me to lose interest in the show." Various aspects of the show could push viewers toward disliking it, such as the gruesomeness, the crudeness and even the actual horrifying concept of zombies taking over.

The show, as a whole, never ceases to run out of new ideas to portray such a well-known theme that is a zombie apocalypse. Five seasons later, *The Walking Dead* is still going strong, thanks to its vast fan base who are known as Dead Heads. Regardless if one is a full blown Dead Head or completely loathes the show there will be at least one aspect that is intriguing and likeable. Content may be too graphic for some, but no one was truly harmed in the making of this television series. That is, with the exception of a bite here and there. Enjoy and stay alive, er, stay tuned.



*The Walking Dead* premieres its season five poster.

Photo courtesy of user Mark Reilly of schmoeknows.com

## UNIFORM BROKERS

\*\*\*Medical Uniforms\*\*\*

Cherokee/Dickies

[nkleiman@comcast.net](mailto:nkleiman@comcast.net)

"We Come To You"

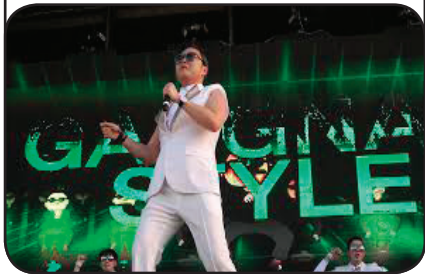
# Where are they now? YouTube Edition

Katie Wolberg '18 Co-Business and Ad Manager

When you open YouTube now-a-days, it is filled with pop music parodies and videos that are so stupid they are still somehow funny. More importantly though, what happened to the old stars of YouTube? Where is Charlie from "Charlie Bit My Finger"? Is the "Gangnam Style" singer, Psy, still making music? Let us take a moment to remember the great videos and stars of YouTube back then.

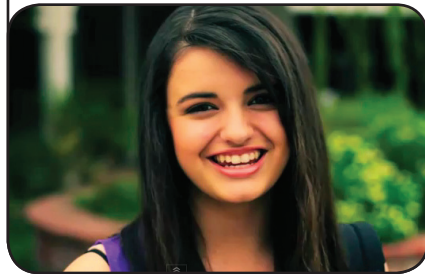
## PSY

Psy, the "Gangnam Style" internet superstar, is apparently now married and has kids! Psy has been married since 2006, and he now has two twin daughters. After producing the successful hit "Gangnam Style," Psy has made multiple new singles such as "Hangover," with rap star Snoop Dogg. He plans on making more music and intends to release a new song called "Daddy," in the next few months. Psy, keep producing new music and being a decent dad.



## Rebecca B

Who could forget the music video and hit song "Friday" by Rebecca Black? After the video was made, Black was homeschooled because she was bullied, and she decided to work on her career. Continuing with her work, Black came up with a sequel to "Friday" called "Saturday." Today, 17-year-old Black is in the limelight again with her YouTube channel, "Rebecca." Black is still YouTube famous and has gained many new fans.



## Charlie

The stars of the video "Charlie Bit My Finger" are all grown up. Charlie Davies Carr was one when the video was made and is now eight. Charlie's older brother Harry was three when the video was made and is now 10. The video became an internet sensation and merchandise, like mugs and t-shirts, of the brothers was sold. There is even an app today called "Charlie Bit Me!" Today, the family resides in England, and Charlie has, hopefully, stopped biting fingers.



## Fred

After making it onto the big screen with his Fred Figglehorn series of movies and TV shows, Lucas Cruikshank's Fred videos came to an end. Cruikshank guest starred in the show *Supah Ninjas* in 2011; he was also the main character, Marvin, for the show *Marvin Marvin* in 2012 and 2013. Cruikshank has stopped the annoying Fred voice and currently makes YouTube videos with his friend Jenny on their channel "Lucas and Jenny."



Photos courtesy of flickr and wikipedia

## Oldies but goodies comes to Metro Detroit

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief



### 1. Counting Crows

Grab on to your CDs and jean overalls, the 90s are back. On Dec. 9, the American rock band, Counting Crows is making an appearance at the Fillmore in Detroit. This band rose to fame in the 90s and has continued to gain popularity since then, due to a dedicated fan base and timeless sound. The genre of the band is inspired from iconic artists such as Bob Dylan, Nirvana, and Van Morrison, so you will not regret purchasing tickets for this upcoming concert. Be sure to check out websites like ticketmaster and StubHub to ensure your seat at this concert before they sell out.



### 2. Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder is one of the most well-known musicians of all time. The talented Stevie Wonder will be gracing audiences with his concert scheduled at the Palace of Auburn Hills for Nov. 20. He has had 10 U.S. number one hits on the pop charts, as well as 20 R&B number one hits, and has sold over 100 million records. He is also considered one of the Top 60 best-selling music artists in the industry with his combined singles and albums. His R&B style will have you grooving in your seat all night long. Do not miss out on the chance to listen to one of the greatest soul artists of our time.



### 3. Cher

As an iconic woman that has been in the show business since the 80s, Cher is a woman with diverse talents. Her resumé includes singing, acting, and television hosting that she has. A triple threat in many ways. Although she has racked up her fair share of accomplishments in categories across show business, she has made it full-circle in her career and is currently focused on her singing. Cher is renowned for her distinctive contralto singing voice, so do not miss her appearance at the Palace planned for Nov. 23.

Photo courtesy of 1 mirror.co, flickr, and wikipedia

## 20 THE SPECTATOR

GUNS DON'T KILL,  
THEY ENABLE

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

When I first heard that I was going to be able to write about whatever I wanted on this back page, I practically fell out of my seat from excitement. I have been waiting for an opportunity like this for a long time now—being able to voice one of my many opinions for the world, or at least the world of Berkley High, to hear. Now, if you know me, you know I am very, very opinionated. I have a lot of strong thoughts on a lot of controversial issues, so this could have gone in a lot of different ways. I mulled over various topics in my head such as abortion, marriage equality, and the death penalty, but none seemed as fitting as gun rights.

Why so fitting? Well, for many reasons. One, shootings are much more common than they should be, and because of this frequency of occurrence, we ignorantly feel that they are not a big deal to those involved, as evidenced by the lack of coverage by the media. And two, I feel very strongly on this issue for a variety of reasons. If you want to take the easy way out, you can stop reading right...WE NEED MORE REGULATIONS ON GUNS...here. But, if you dare to continue, I will attempt to paint all of my arguments in the relatively little space provided.

What do guns do? Yes, they shoot bullets, but why? Why are bullets shot? Bullets are shot to kill. There are a few exceptions like skeet shooting, in which nothing technically dies, but at a fundamental level, people shoot to kill or to prepare to kill. This, in and of itself, is a problem. Having something for the sole purpose of causing death should come as an alarm to any modern civilization, and to most, it has. In practically every other industrialized, western or civil nation, there is stricter gun regulations than we have here. For Americans, shootings are so common, so we just assume they are common everywhere else. That assumption, however, is wrong. Almost 75 percent of the deadliest shootings in the world occur in America. I will say that again so you can really take it in. Almost 75 percent of the deadliest shootings in the world occur in America. One more time, this time in caps because people have not gotten this statistic through their heads yet. ALMOST 75 PERCENT OF THE DEADLIEST SHOOTINGS IN THE WORLD OCCUR IN AMERICA.

One argument from the pro-gun camp is that guns protect people, so they are a necessary part of society. To refute that, I will take a page from Australia. In 1996, the deadliest shooting in the world took place at Port Arthur. Thirty five people died, 23 more were injured, and unlike in America, Australia has taken swift and strong action. The Australian government passed new legislation that banned almost all civilian usage of guns. In the 10 years before 1996, there were 10 separate massacres in Australia. In the 10 years after 1996, there were zero massacres. In the total time from 1996 to now, a total of five people have died from civilian gun fire. Let me put it to you this way—when you type in ‘American mass shootings’ into Wikipedia, you will receive 77 separate links, all leading to different mass shootings in the U.S.. All of Australia’s mass murders (not only shootings) in their 100+ years as a nation fit on one page, with a detailed description of each event.

Yes, banning civilian guns entirely is a bit extreme, but it should not be out of the question. The most common argument to any and all forms of gun control is that it is the second amendment. This is true, but lets take a trip back to 1791. America had just won its independence from Great Britain, which was ruled by a king, and had set up a new and controversial system. The delegates of 1791 were very fearful that the president would eventually become the king of America, so they crafted an amendment to prevent that. The sole purpose of the second amendment is to allow the citizens of America to form a civilian militia and overthrow the government when we deem it to be too powerful. Now flash forward to today. Even if every American citizen was equipped with an AK-47, it would not be nearly enough to overthrow the American army. This fact renders the second amendment outdated and useless. Using an argument from 223 years ago is almost laughable, yet it somehow is being considered valid.

For those who say that gun restrictions are unconstitutional, their thought processes might be, ‘if everyone has guns, doesn’t nobody have guns?’ Well, factually, no. If everyone has guns, everyone has guns, obviously. Regardless of the mathematical error, I would like you to imagine two separate utopias. Utopia one is a place in which every citizen (not children, of course—that would be crazy!) owns a gun. Let us say one of these citizens is mentally ill and decides to open fire in a crowd. He would kill people, then everyone around would open fire, causing numerous unnecessary casualties of innocent citizens. Now, utopia two is a place where nobody has guns. Let us again say that one of the citizens is mentally ill, and decides to open fire in a crowd. Oh wait, he cannot because he does not have access to a gun! In this scenario, nobody dies while in utopia one, people die. Which would you rather have?

Yes, a change from our regulations on guns to no guns at all would be extreme, but we can at least take a step in the right direction. We need stricter regulations on guns, where people can carry and conceal them, and what types can be carried. Everyone who wants to own a gun should be subjected to a vigorous course on gun safety, be forced to pass multiple personality tests, and have to take countless more gun safety, IQ, and stress tests. In the end, guns may not kill people, but they most certainly enable people to kill people, and based solely off that, not any average Joe should be able to own one.

IT IS JUST A LETTER:  
GRADES CANNOT PREDICT THE FUTURE

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

I am an average junior in high school. I do not have 4.0 GPA, I did not receive a 30-36 on my ACT, and no, I am not in all AP classes, but because of the skills I have learned through out of school experiences, I know I am going to have a successful career and happy life. When I asked Google to define school, the definition I received was: an institution for educating children. Nowhere in this definition was the future alluded to. Nowhere was school defined to have power over who students were going to turn out to be, and what their professions were to be after high school. School is simply an institution for educating children. There is a major misconception that good grades result in the acceptance to a prestigious college which would therefore guarantees you a good career and successful life because that is not the case.

I suppose one could trace the root of this inference to the core of the school system—grading. Grades are judgments made by educators. However, teachers are just human. They have feelings, opinions and believe it or not, lives outside of the classroom. The problem with teachers being human is that there is no way to prevent their own personal opinions on subjects, students and assignments from interfering with their grading, making them unintentionally unable to objectively grade. Teachers obviously can do nothing to stop this and are not at fault because they did not create the system, but it is important to recognize this fact so that everyone knows that grades are not an accurate scale of determining future success.

Although teachers are an unknowingly substantial part of the grading dilemma, the grading system would not affect anyone if society did not give it the power to do so. It is similar to how society gives money its value. A \$20 bill is not actually worth the amount in which we give it because it is made from the same material and printed the same way as a \$1 bill, making them essentially equal in worth. However, we as a society believe in the monetary system, and each bill’s unreal worth makes it more valuable to us. We desire A’s because that is what is considered acceptable and are sought after in society, and people generally want to fit in and succeed. But with the rationale that good grades lead to a good college which later guarantees a successful career, it would also mean that societal acceptance is based off of grades. Therefore, social acceptance is being based off of the judgments of teachers which is flawed because they are unable to grade objectively through no fault of their own, other than that they are human.

Even though we all know school is important, we also all know that half of the material we are learning is irrelevant to our specific interest-driven futures. I can honestly say that there will be no other time in my life that I will need to use trig functions to find the angle of theta on a polar graph. My grade in pre-calc, for instance, will thus be completely irrelevant to my future job. My grade, one of the deciding factors of my acceptance to college, is not a factor in deciding my success in the professional world because the content does not correspond to any real life situation for me, and this makes the grade in that class and others, an inaccurate projection of success. This can be applied to students who aspire to be a mathematician as well. To succeed in their career, there is no need for them to know detailed information about an ancient Chinese civilization taught in AP world history.

There are also many examples of successful people who did not do well in school. There is an obvious example of Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook. Zuckerberg dropped out of college to pursue his passion, and he is not homeless or struggling to survive. He is thriving. Even though he did not fulfill his school commitments and get the grades that we would consider to be embodying success or socially acceptable, he went on to achieve his dreams and make millions. But he is not the only one; there is a plethora of success stories that begin with either “I didn’t do great in high school,” or “I dropped out of college.”

High school, of course, can offer some good preparation tools to succeed in the future, but experiences offer more. Like we were taught in Honors English 10 during *Siddhartha*, knowledge is taught but wisdom is what is gained through life experiences. Ultimately, at the end of *Siddhartha*, the wisdom is what enabled him to be successful in his journey to finding enlightenment. Obviously, not many of us are going to be looking for enlightenment, but we can still take away from the novel that wisdom will get you further, and it is more valuable than the knowledge that is taught and graded in school. This limits us because so much of our lives are spent in school that it becomes difficult to partake in experiences that will provide us with wisdom. Therefore, the teaching of knowledge, being considered more important to wisdom, is what will prove to be problematic in our futures. This is because the lessons and tools we learn from experiences are the ones that affect our behaviors the most.

There are also things that high school cannot teach. We aren’t taught or graded on our social skills or work ethic and other factors that can contribute directly to our performance in a work place. Grades are a temporary judgment. I do believe that without grades the school system would be unsuccessful in getting students to do their work. Grades are used as motivation for students to get their work accomplished. Grades are thus an inaccurate way to predict the future because they are based off of motivation of students to do assignments and not their actual abilities to accurately complete the assignment.

Everyone has a chance after high school and even college to succeed. We are not going to be putting our high school GPAs on our resumes because potential employers will find that information irrelevant. Eventually, our grades that we receive today will become erroneous on some accounts. We all need to remember that the stress over grades is unnecessary. There is no connection between the grades we receive in high school and our final career and ultimate happiness. Performing to our best abilities is all that should be required of us as there is too much unnecessary stress placed upon us. Not everyone needs to graduate with a 4.0 to be successful.