

# SPECTATOR

October 2014



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# Ask Doctor Bennett

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor, Bennett Hart '16, News Editor and Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart

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.*

### What do you think about Brady Hoke?

I do not think that Brady is a good enough football coach for the University of Michigan. He has not done a good job this year even with a pretty talented team. He has recruited well enough by getting Jabrill Peppers and Derrick Green, but has failed to develop them into Big Ten quality players. Unless Hoke can coach this team to a victory at Ohio State, then I do not see a reason to keep him after this season.

### I like this guy, but he doesn't like me back. Should I egg his car?

Aggression is not the only way to get things done on this earth. I would not egg his car. Just talk to him. If it does not work, get over him. Life is tough. Violence is never the answer in a situation like this.

### Bennett, they say you are a reincarnation of the Buddha.

Thanks, but you should probably read the bio above, ya dingus!

### If you eat yourself, would you double in size or vanish?

If you can ignore the fact that eating yourself is impossible, then I think you would double in size. When you finished eating your entire arm you would gain that weight in your midsection and grow a new arm. After repeating this process with every part of your body you would be the first double human to roam the earth. If you decided to have kids you would be forced to have two at a time. Maybe.

### If you could be an animal, what animal would you be

If I could be any animal I would definitely be a Kodiak Bear. Widely known as the strongest animal on earth, the Kodiak Bear tears through anything in its path. Being a Kodiak Bear would allow me to put anyone in my way to sleep, including those who do not end their questions in question marks.

## The Meh List:

Not good, not bad, just meh.

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

1. Sophomore year
2. Solar powered calculators
3. Online textbooks
4. New Hampshire
5. Diet ginger ale



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

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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 Robby Flannery hidden within these pages (not on page 13). Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165/116 and show her where Flannery 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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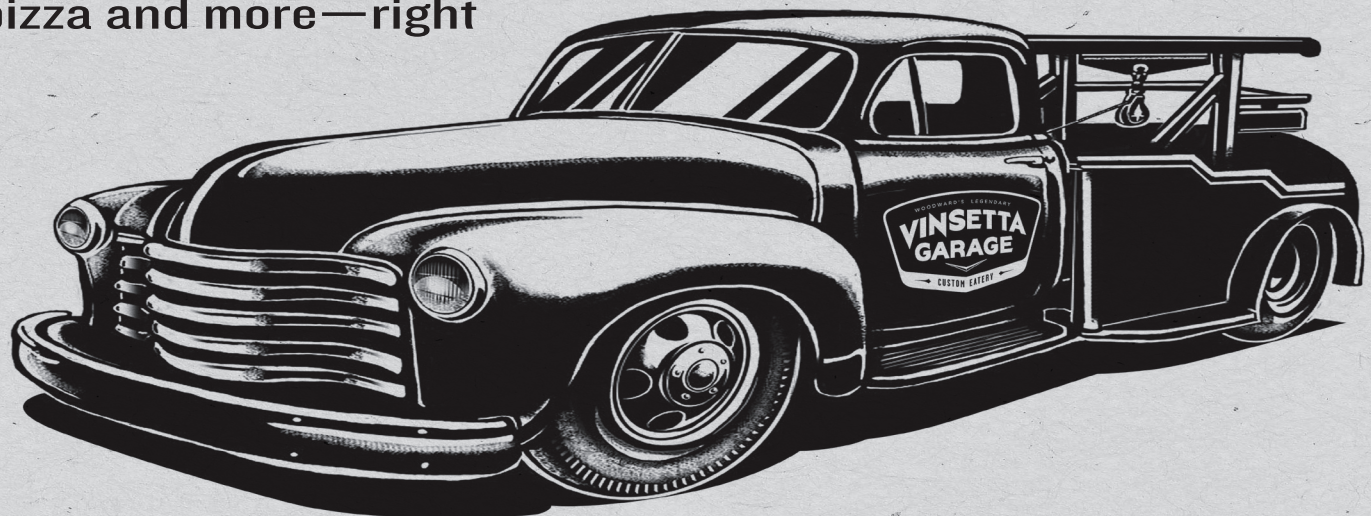
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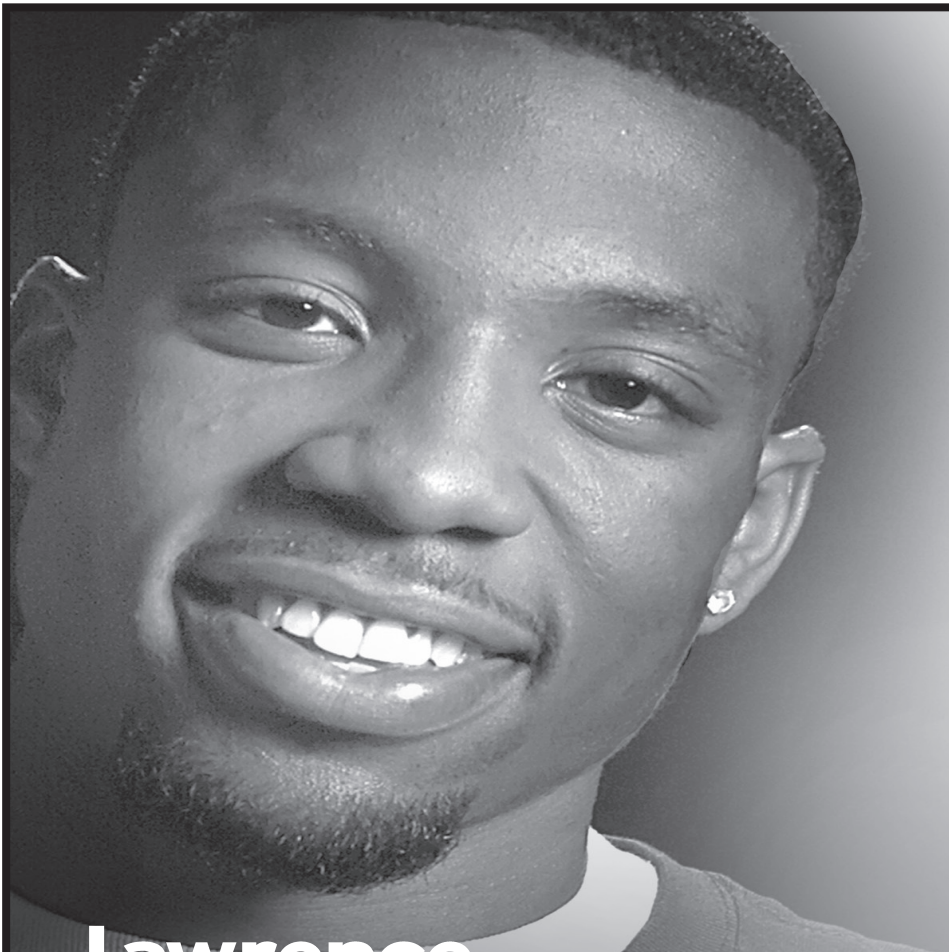
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# Sexual assault initiative hits college campuses nationwide



Photo courtesy of NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/Getty Images

Obama launched a sexual assault campaign, “It’s on Us,” on Sept. 19 in an attempt to limit sexual assault on college campuses.

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

On Sept. 19, President Barack Obama unveiled his future plans to help prevent the continuation of sexual assault on university campuses nationwide. In his public service announcement, Obama introduced viewers to his newly devised “It’s on Us” campaign, which urges young adults to take the optimal stance against sexual assault and work towards eliminating it entirely.

During his speech, President Obama strongly expressed his belief that now is the time for a fundamental shift to occur within the American society concerning how women should be treated by society. While Obama did not specifically mention the recent debacle concerning the NFL and domestic violence, he did address a broad range of sexual assault issues, but particularly those pertaining to universities.

Since April, after a series of highly publicized rapes on college campuses, including one that took place at the University of Michigan, the Obama Administration has been aggressively seeking out new and effective ways to fight off the rising sexual assault rate on students, particularly female, within the university setting. According to various

more universities and students will get involved in the “It’s on Us” campaign and take the pledge against sexual assault.

Towards the end of his speech, President Obama made one final remark that should be taken with great heed by both women and men; “As far as we’ve come, the fact is that from sports leagues to pop culture to politics, our society still does not sufficiently value women,” Obama said. “This is a personal priority, not just as a President...but as an American who believes that our nation’s success depends on how we value and defend the rights of women and girls.”

Hopefully, more will join and take part in this social revolution with the “It’s on Us” campaign. It is high time that sexual assault saw its end within this country and that all of its citizens, both men and women, are valued and respected equally by one and another, despite their gender. If you are interested in taking the pledge against sexual assault, please visit the “It’s on Us” campaign website to sign the petition today.

collegiate studies, it is believed that during the first 15 weeks of college, female students are most at risk for a sexual assault attack. Further, it is estimated that one in five women will be sexually assaulted while at college and many of them, by someone they know.

As a part of the Obama administration’s new efforts, the Justice Department’s Office on Violence against Women (OVW) has recently pledged more than \$6 million to 18 different universities to develop all-inclusive campus sexual assault prevention and response programs. Student leaders from nearly 200 university campuses across the United States have agreed to participate in the campaign including those from four Michigan based schools: Hope College, Cornerstone University, Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University.

In early October, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland also joined the “It’s on Us” campaign. Last year, the academy saw a case dealing with sexual assault allegations against three star athletes and a female student. Charges against two of the accused were dropped. A third was acquitted in March. Midshipman Christopher DiOrio released a statement claiming that the U.S. Naval Academy joined the “It’s on Us” campaign to demonstrate the importance in accountability of their students’ actions while also raising awareness on sexual assault.

With the campaign gaining remarkable support, its prospects for a successful future seem promising. As the academic year continues to progress, it is expected that

## iOS 8 criticized: Your information is not as safe as it seems

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

Last month, Apple released their highly anticipated new operating system, iOS 8. The revolutionary software got mixed reviews for many reasons, but no issue was more controversial than the new security policy that Apple employed through this operating system. With iOS 8, all data on one’s phone is secured by a four-digit passcode. Although iPhones have had a feature available to users that allows people to set a passcode to enter their phone, a code is now required for Apple to get information in their computers. This means that Apple cannot freely access things that one has saved on his or her iPhone.

For many people, this new security feature was welcomed because it made them feel safer knowing that Apple was not looking through their information and

selling it to other companies. Others were opposed to the change. Now that all information is protected by a four-digit code, people believe law enforcement could have a harder time obtaining information to be used as evidence in criminal cases.

Even though Apple presented this new feature as one of the most drastic changes between iOS 7 and iOS 8, they left out one crucial aspect of the story. iCloud, an internet service that allows iPhone users to backup information from their phones, is still on the previous policy. There are over 300 million people who use iCloud, including almost all iPhone users. Therefore, the new policy is virtually obsolete since Apple and law enforcement can continue to obtain evidence they require from most iPhone users.

Junior Lucie Rosenthal is not concerned with Apple’s security issues. Rosenthal said, “I’m fine with [the security policy]. I don’t really care [because] I don’t have anything that is really bad on my phone, so I don’t think that Apple is going to use that information.” This is a very popular opinion. People that have nothing to hide likely do not care that Apple has the ability to intrude on their information.

Apple has attempted to address an issue that many of their customers have been worried about for a long time. Although Apple made an attempt to fix this, they fell short by not implementing the new security standards across all of their products. With the number of cyber attacks and other electronic related crimes rising, security should not be compromised.

The logo for iOS, consisting of the letters 'i', 'O', and 'S' in a stylized, colorful font. The 'i' is blue, the 'O' is green, and the 'S' is pink.

Photo courtesy of  
wikimedia

# The Islamic State sweeps the Middle East

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

The organization known as the Islamic State (IS) has been seizing large swaths of land in Iraq and Syria in recent months, prompting international attention. The Islamic State, known also as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is an insurgent group operating in Iraq and Syria. The IS was declared a terrorist group by the United Nations. Human rights organization and Amnesty International accused the IS of severe human rights violations.

The IS is an offshoot of the terrorist group al-Qaeda, who have since denounced the IS for their extreme actions. The organization has declared itself a caliphate, an Islamic state ruled by a supreme religious leader; caliphates proclaim to have power over all Muslims of the world. The leader, called a caliph, of the caliphate is currently Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, presently known as Amir al-Mu'minin Caliph Ibrahim. The group aims to bring all regions with a Muslim majority under its control. In June 2014, they mounted a large attack in Northern Iraq, resulting in the seizure of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, as well as the Iraq borders with Syria and Jordan. The loss of the border from government control allows open movement of the IS between Iraq and Syria. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates the amount of IS fighters as 50,000 in Syria and 30,000 in Iraq. The CIA puts the number at between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters in each country.

Opponents of the IS criticize their use of religion as the justification for their cause. In an address to Albanian government officials Pope Francis said, "May no one use religion as a pretext for actions against human dignity and against the fundamental rights of every man and woman, above all, the right to life and the right of everyone to religious freedom!"

The IS attracted western media attention when they released video of the execution of journalists James Foley and Stephen Sotloff and aid worker Alan Henning. Foley was an American journalist working as a freelance war correspondent in Syria when he was abducted last October. Foley was executed on Aug. 19. Sotloff was an American-Israeli journalist who was abducted last August. Sotloff was executed on Sept. 2. Henning was a

British taxi driver, working on an aid convoy in Syria. Henning was executed on Oct. 3. All three men were beheaded by a masked executioner who is suspected to be British. The families of the deceased have requested that the public refrain from viewing the videos out of respect for Foley, Sotloff and Henning.

In all of the land they have seized, the IS is conducting a silent genocide of Christians. The Christian minority have given the option to convert to Islam, pay a fine of 550,000 Iraqi dinar (about \$470), abandon all their belongings and leave or be killed. Much of the Christian population has fled Northern Iraq in response to the ultimatum. Any who oppose

the IS are massacred, often in mass executions. Even so, "the vast majority of ISIL's victims have been Muslim," President Obama said in an address to Congress. Schools in the affected areas are now severely restricting the teaching of history and the sciences. "The intentional deletion of history is a fast way to turn people your way," US history teacher Mrs. Angela Church said. Any mention of democracy or the Christian faith is now banned entirely.

On Sept. 10, in a speech to Congress, President Obama announced that the United States would be spearheading an effort to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the IS. The effort will be conducted with airstrikes on key IS military bases. The President emphasized that military servicepeople will not be there on a combat mission and the key to defeating the IS is to strengthen the opposition in Iraq and Syria.

Congress approved the equipping and training of rebels on Sept. 18. With assistance from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Bahrain, the United States began conducting airstrikes on IS forces in Syria. On Oct. 2, Turkish lawmakers voted in favor of sending troops into Iraq and Syria to join the fight against IS forces.

The IS is a terrorist group of an unprecedented scale and force. Such rapid and merciless expansion from an unrecognized state is rarely seen. The fight between the IS and the opposing forces in Iraq and Syria will define the fight against terrorism throughout the world.



The Islamic State is capturing land in the Middle East causing countries to panic.

Photo courtesy of getrad2.blogspot.com-1554

## D68 and Ebola come out of hibernation

Madison Huff '16, Student Life Editor

As of now, a total of 938 individuals across 46 states in the US have been infected by the recent outbreak of the virus known as D68. D68 is, however, not nearly as well known as the African-born disease known as Ebola which has found its way onto U. S. soil. How many are infected is still unknown, but there are U. S. citizens, visitors and immigrants under quarantine.

Both issues are being controlled and contained by medical professionals. They are taking as many precautions as possible to prevent further spreading of the virus. This 2014 Ebola epidemic, however, is considered the largest in history. The US is monitoring all travelers from Ebola-affected countries and concentrated areas within the US.

In 1962, a respiratory infection known as enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), was first documented in the United States in the state of California, but now it is resurfacing. The virus has so long remained dormant that there is not a vaccine or anti-virus medication available for those already infected. The virus starts off mild in term of symptoms, but can quickly escalate if left

untreated. This disease had remained dormant for about 52 years.

Currently, in Michigan there have only been three confirmed cases of D68. Dr. Mary Anne Jackson of Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri said in a CNN interview, "I have practiced for thirty years in pediatrics, and I have never seen anything quite like this." Considering the lack of knowledge regarding D68, medical professionals are working ceaselessly to obtain a better understanding of the virus.

Relating to the outbreak of D68 is the more publicized epidemic of Ebola. Worldwide, the Ebola is continuing to take its toll on citizens' health and taking the lives of an undocumented number who were in contact with and contracted the viral strand. The first person to be infected in the U. S. was a male Liberian native and two American nurses who cared for him. The Liberian man, Thomas Eric Duncan, was the first death brought on by Ebola in this resurging epidemic. The NBC cameraman, Ashoka Mukpo, no longer has the Ebola virus in his bloodstream.

In an attempt to prevent further spreading of this virus

airports are banning entrance of flights from countries who are heavily infected. Experts say even the ban will not stop people from finding their way to move around the world. Therefore, in order to avoid contracting the virus, people must refrain from direct contact with others who show any symptoms even with gestures as simple as hugging or shaking hands.

There are more than seven billion people on this planet, and the number of those infected with D68 or Ebola is slowly climbing. As a nation everyone must work together to protect not only themselves, but their fellow citizens. There is no set prediction as to when this epidemic will pass, so in the meantime the public must do all they can to stay healthy. On Wednesday, Oct. 22 the World Health Organization met for the third time as an Emergency Committee. All countries with Ebola-affected citizens will continue to provide updates.



# ONE MONTH LATER... ARE WE DIFFERENT?

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

About a month ago, Dr. Michael Fowlin, aka Dr. Mykee came to Berkley and delivered a powerful speech. Fowlin spoke of tolerance, forgiveness, and resilience in new ways that were both eye and heart opening. Not all students cried, but all were affected in some way. Coming out of that assembly, we the students, were determined to be the best people we could be. We all smiled at one another while walking through the halls. We made sure to stop and say 'hello!' to as many people as possible while privately reflecting on the things Dr. Mykee had asked each of us. 'Am I part of the problem?' we considered, and if 'yes', we then asked ourselves 'how can I be a part of the solution?'

Flash forward to today. Yes, there are some who genuinely took the words of Dr. Mykee to heart and made changes that they have continued to maintain since the assembly, but the vast majority of us seemingly did not. So now, walking through the hallways, we (the ones who did not maintain our changes) do not smile at each other with those same, welcoming smiles from a month ago. We do not stop and greet people the same way we did on the day of the assembly. We do not reflect on ourselves as individuals and instead of continuing to strive to be part of the solution, we simply forget to ask ourselves if we are part of the problem.

Sadly, this type of social amnesia is not uncommon for our generation. We are the generation of fads, where things like the Shmoney dance (which will have probably already died by the time this article is printed) go viral, become mainstream and then go to Facebook to die.

You may be thinking, 'why does this matter?' Well, this matters because when complex social issues arise, we, the younger generation, are supposed to force change through

protest and action. Our short attention span makes some of us incapable of coming together and ensuring that these changes happen.

A month on, Dr. Mykee's speech is nothing more than a testament to our generation's inability to change, but we should think of it as more than that. I am not saying that we all need to completely reinvent ourselves as people, but I do know that after the assembly, we became better versions of ourselves by being more socially aware— even if it was only for a few days.

On that note, I challenge all BHS students to remember those small changes you made after the assembly and work to revert back to how you acted immediately after. Be that better version of yourself, the version that would make you and Dr. Mykee proud.



Photo by Jake Kreinbring

Students do not show the friendliness to each other now as they did on the day of the assembly.

# EXCELLENT IS THE NEW AVERAGE

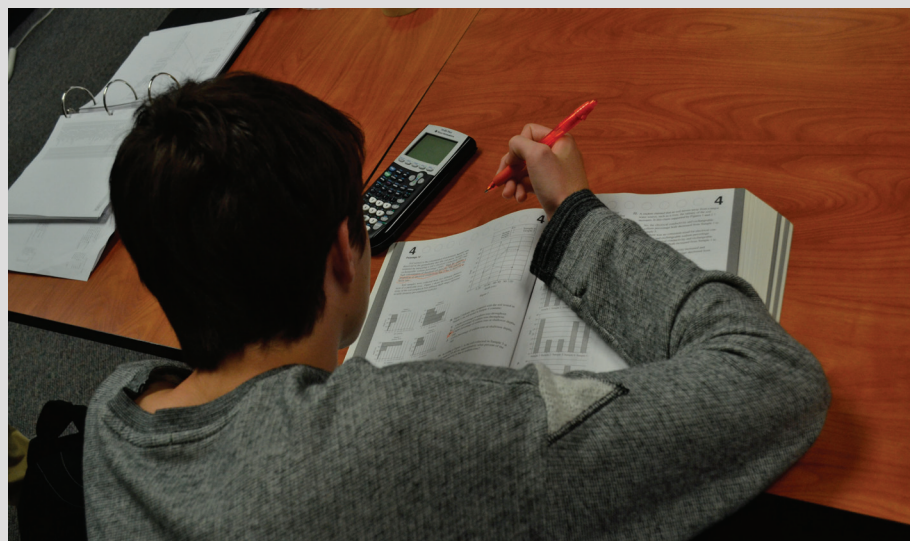
Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

The average ACT score in the state of Michigan is a 20.1. On the typical grading scale, a C is considered average. Those statistics are based on the performance of students all throughout the state and country. However, these scores and grades are not what most in our community aspire for and consider acceptable.

Many students work very hard to obtain the grades that they receive. They would consider a 20.1 to be an unsuccessful score and would be disappointed in themselves for earning it. Some would even cry over getting a C on a test, and definitely if it materialized on their final semester report card.

The cause for this yearning to overachieve is due to the academic pressures to meet certain standards that are placed on students' lives by so-called 'authority' figures. Parents are the ideal example. Most of them want their child to achieve more than they have in their lifetime. Because of this mindset, they start to become more involved in their child's academics because they want them to get the grades necessary to get into a good college. Another prime 'authority' figure is a university. The most sought after universities set standards that only the best of students, with the best of grades, can achieve. "Colleges, like the University of Michigan, are

becoming more selective, causing the average GPA for acceptance to increase," BHS counselor Mrs. Christina Belsky said. Therefore, this makes the 'average' student



Students agonize over surpassing what was once the norm with hours of studying every day.

the new below average student and is thus essentially unacceptable within the college community.

Along with the competition comes the extreme anxiety and stress. Students are pushed past their working capacity to over achieve. Even when they are not physically at school, there is always homework bringing anxiety into

the student's life. When they do decide to begin their hours of homework, it takes them a longer time to finish because they have to do extra to perform above average. Students who normally would excel with extra effort are unable to because the bar for success has been raised by overachievers.

The saddest part of this reality is that the students who are considered average are not treated as such. They are treated like underachievers, when in reality they put in the acceptable amount of effort when compared to the requirements for their assignments, tests and classes. The actuality of the situation is that the students who are overachievers are now considered the norm and everyone under them is at a disadvantage and considered below average.

Although there are students who choose to perform as average, there are also students who cannot perform any better. If the school system's goal is for students to complete high school to the best of their abilities, and their best is average based on the standards of others, why is that not good enough? Students considered to be in the range of average should not be considered mediocre or unsatisfactory, and should not be at a disadvantage to those in higher academic rankings.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

# FEMINISM AND THE INTERNET

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

The Internet is a wonderful place where literally, okay figuratively, anything can happen, and people of just about any age can say what they think. Unfortunately, this instant and infinitely large platform is lending itself to a storm of hate and misunderstanding of the new feminist movement. A lack of understanding leads to the labeling of an entire movement due to one radical branch's views. This situation is similar to one in the early 2000s, when many in the United States collectively labeled people from the Middle East as terrorists. The same fate of mislabeling could fall upon the feminist movement if the issue is not addressed quickly.

Now, let me start with saying that the world needs feminism. The facts show that women make about 78 cents to every dollar men make. Plain and simple, the world should be past the era where men and women are not treated equally. The feminist movement has picked up a lot of attention on the internet as of late, specifically on the popular microblogging website Tumblr. This website centers around following, liking, sharing and connecting with people. However, it has spawned small extremist movements inside of it, one of these being a large radical feminist movement, but this movement is hardly one concerned with equal rights.

This radical feminist movement on Tumblr consists of mostly women, some men, from the age of 15 to 25. The popular idea of the Tumblr radical feminist movement is that men are the source of most social issues. Their attitude towards men is hateful and believes in the idea of the 'disposable male.' These ideals have been taken to even larger extremes, leading to some intense accusations. For example, a post by one of these implicated 'feminists' states the idea that homosexual men are discriminating against females because of their sexual orientation.

In the post, readers see a high school aged girl complain about homosexual men not wanting to date a woman due to her gender, claiming discrimination. These ideas are cultivated by radical feminists, but it does not represent the larger feminist movement. The definition of feminism is "the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men." Feminists generally advocate for the equal rights of not only women, but people in general. People speaking out on the Internet like this under the banner of feminism gives the movement a reputation that taints the world's view of the cause as a whole. This is only one of many complaints that are unfounded and immature. Posts like these are detrimental to the true feminist movement.

The problem that this is causing is not just one of prejudice towards one group, but rather the misunderstanding of the feminist movement. With the idea of the so-called 'Feminazi' influencing the youth of world, the misconception that all feminists are radical is not true. As long as these stereotypes remain attached to the feminist movement, their message will be lost in Internet-induced hatred and confusion.

With radical feminists normalizing their hateful statements as feminism, the larger movement is losing its validity and reputation. The definition of and hope for equality associated with feminism is lost in all of these posts, and if a person were to ask a teen male what a feminist is and what they stand for, they may begin to respond that they think feminists are women who hate men. This misconception will be deadly for the movement if there is not a clear line set between the radical minority and the progressive majority. The feminist movement will decay and the equality being fought for will be lost in a sea of discrimination and hatred.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Radical minorities degrade the achievements of the larger feminist movement.



Photo courtesy of Flickr user Mark Tomlinson

Tumblr gives a voice to everyone on the Internet, for better or worse.

# The POPS and FLOPS of October

## iPhone 6+

Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

Not surprisingly, a new Apple iPhone has come out, the iPhone 6+. The iPhone 6+ is significantly larger than past iPhones. They have more data storage and are thin in width, both iPhones being between 6.9-7.1 millimeters. However, there are many issues that come with the phones. The aluminum that Apple uses for the phones is too soft, causing them to bend. The power button is now on the side of the device, not on the top, and it is unnecessarily big, causing the screen to drain the battery easily. The beauty of the iPhone fitting perfectly into your pocket is not the case anymore. Apple has lost its unique slim size with the new iPhone 6 and 6+.

## Take one bowl's

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

All current and former trick or treaters have encountered the "take one" bowl at some point in their candy collecting days. When one approaches the front porch and sees a solitary bowl filled with candy, happiness arrives. You can say goodbye to the candy in the bowl, and half of your candy bag has just been filled up from one location. "When I see a 'take one' bowl, I just take the entire bowl. It is heaven," sophomore Grant Laramée said. If you plan on going out this year on Oct. 31, look out for these hidden treasures.

## Friday Halloween

Drew Leshman '17, Bull's Eye Editor

As hard as it might be to wrap your head around, this year, on Oct. 31, Halloween happens to fall on a Friday. This will be the first time this amazing kind of occurrence has taken place since 2008, and the next time this fortunate existence will appear is in 2020. In past years, students have had to go home early after trick-or-treating so they could get up the next morning. "It works pretty well because you don't have to worry about staying out late because there is no school the next day," senior Gian Bonello said. Students can now appreciate the holiday without the associated worry about school work.

## Tigers' bullpen

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

With the highest Earned Run Average (ERA) in the seventh inning or later, Tigers' fans are used to the consistent late game disappointment. From middle relief pitchers like Phil Coke, to a ninth inning, 6-time all-star closer Joe Nathan, the night by night unreliability continues to restrict the Motor City from baseball success. The offseason acquisitions made by highly respected MLB general manager Dave Dombrowski are hopeless after being constantly let down. Year after year, new elite bullpen pitchers are brought into the Tigers' program. Come April, the cursed system always find ways to spoil multi-run lead games despite our beloved starting rotation's nightly gems. After a season-ending playoff sweep that was quite the letdown, we hope that work will be done to substantially fix our Tigers for next season.

# BERKLEY ACHIEVES NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor and Zoe Blake '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

## CELIA SOMERS - JUNIOR MVP

**Number:** 3  
**Height:** 5'6  
**Favorite food:** Ramen noodles  
**Favorite animal:** Elephants  
**Favorite color:** Purple  
**How she felt when her team scored:** "Erin Tripp scored the touchdown, but I threw the pass to her; it felt great either way! I threw it right before the seniors pulled my flag, and I can't believe Erin caught it. We were both so happy. Erin and I are best friends, and it was just really cool that we scored 1 out of the 2 touchdowns together."



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On Wednesday, Oct. 8 at Hurley Field, the annual junior vs. senior powder puff game took place. The seniors remained undefeated from their junior year upset, beating this year's junior class 26-13. Within the first half of the game, seniors Morgan Swimmer and Grace Hammerle each scored a touchdown. Hammerle's was off an interception from her sister, junior Jane Hammerle. The teams went into their respective locker rooms with the juniors down 13-0. The juniors came back in the second half to score quickly. Junior Erin Tripp scored a touchdown off a pass from junior and quarterback Celia Somers. Swimmer scored again twice, and junior Sophia Shumylo also contributed to her team's score. The game was full of good fun and sportsmanlike conduct. It was an excellent example of how the powder puff game should be played.

## MORGAN SWIMMER - SENIOR MVP

**Number:** 2  
**Height:** 5'5  
**Favorite Food:** Steak  
**Favorite Animal:** Turtle  
**Favorite color:** Red  
**How she felt when she scored:** "It felt great. All the touchdowns were fun to get, and I knew our team needed them."



The dance

From the moment one walked into the dance, he or she could barely recognize that it was the West gym. The gym was filled with New York themed decorations like skyline cut outs, Central Park gardens, famous street signs and much more. Great concepts were used for the theme as well. The candy table had been transformed and was called "Dylan's Candy Bar" like the famous candy store in New York City. There was also more than enough beverages this year. Thank you Student Leadership for making this homecoming the best one yet. No wonder a whopping 800 people bought tickets!

## The football game

It was the football game to which everyone looks forward, the game that would make homecoming weekend even better with an exciting victory. And what it became was just that. The football game had a huge crowd of Bears, and the student section seemed to be louder and more engaged than ever. "I can't remember a time where our student section has been as pumped as we were that night; it was crazy," junior Sakina Toure said. Trying their hardest, the Bears went on to win the game 32-29 against Birmingham Groves. "I'm so proud to be a part of such a great team. It's an honor," sophomore Chauncey Bridgewater said. Congrats on the win, Bears!

## Spirit Week

### PAJAMA DAY: SAMANTHA LEON

Samantha looked cozy with her heart jammies and slippers, so she was all ready to take a nap when she got home.



### BEACH DAY: JON CHER

Jon looked delicious while rocking his bagel inner tube. Talk about an outfit. Yum!



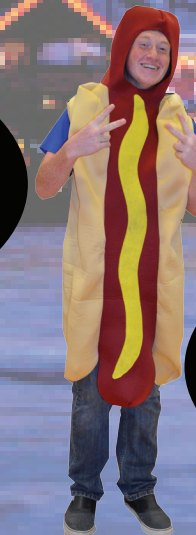
### NEON DAY: ROBBY FLANNERY

One could see Robby from the moon, shining like a neon star in his matching electric pink headband and socks.



### COSTUME DAY: ZESTY ZACH HOBSON

Zach strutted his buns in an original hot dog costume. Looking pretty tasty Zach!



# The First Lady's new lunch program faces backlash

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

Michelle Obama has been working to help students across the nation with the ultimate goal in health: to change school meals to help prevent obesity and health problems. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act was put in place during 2010, and students now are seeing the effects of the program and are not necessarily fond of the change. Many students argue that a young adult should be able to eat whatever they want at school, while having some self-control as to how much is consumed.

"Last year during lunch I had a large variety of what to eat. Now, I find myself eating the same meal, and it never fills me up," junior Patrick Flood said. Many of BHS's students do not dare venture from the main lunch line to try sides that look unappetizing. Even the tasty treats of the Bear have been influenced by the new plan. "Otis cookies aren't even the same now. They are good but definitely not as good as last year's cookie," Flood said.

The First Lady has worked to make the new lunches nutritious and tasty with new portion sizes that will help students feel more lively and full. Students, however, feel otherwise. "I feel more sluggish and less motivated to work after lunch," Flood said. Recently, a school in New Mexico has had a problem with their students



First Lady Michelle Obama is the brains of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user Christopher Dilts

rejecting the food. They did so by throwing their meals in the trash and going hungry for the rest of the day. The point behind this protest was to show how these lunches are not enough to give a young adult the energy to power through their long school day. Students of BHS do not, however, feel this protest is effective. "If a student feels the lunches are that bad, they need to pack a lunch," junior Maliq Johnson said. Many students at BHS are not satisfied with these meals, but they understand that they can take lunch from home or find a productive way to make a change in their diet.

The lunches are not that bad though. The Bear, located in the main Lunch room, has lost many items, but is still finding ways to satisfy customers with new delicious treats like Icees. "They are really good, and no one should miss out on these drinks," junior Mona Lisa Jones said. Hopefully, schools around the country will work toward fixing the kinks in the system such as size and presentation, but as of right now the students should think of this change as something that will help students to make healthier decisions in the future.

Photo courtesy of accuratequote.com

# Hit the snooze button—it's healthy

Jessie Cohen '17, Co-Circulation Manager

In the hallways on any given morning at BHS, the words, "I'm so tired," will be uttered many times by multiple people. "I would love it if school started later," sophomore Grace Hermann said. "I need sleep." Much to her delight, the topic of having high schools start their day at a later time is under debate.

More than 1,000 schools in the United States, including the Williamston School District in Michigan and Kenston Public Schools in Ohio, have already made their start times later, and their actions have been supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics. In schools that have changed their start times, students are showing improved grades.

Biologically, most high school students have trouble falling asleep

before 11 p.m., even when they do not have homework or other commitments keeping them awake. Their "body clocks" run at a later time than older or younger people. In addition, teenagers are said to need over nine hours of sleep per night, as opposed to the average adult's eight hours. Having schools begin later in the day makes it possible for students to sleep during the optimal hours for their bodies, which would allow them to be well rested and attentive during school.

When asked his opinion on having school begin later, principal Randy Gawel said, "I would be all for [delaying start times] if we could work out the logistics." He added, "Unfortunately, it seems that tradition gets in the way of

change."

Making this change would mean school days end later. This would cause sports practices to run further into the afternoon. For students on sports teams, having their practices run later into the day would give them less time for jobs or other activities in which they may want to participate, considering their homework load.

Students at BHS agree that having school start at a later time would be a positive adjustment. Although schools realize that there are downsides, it is believed by both students and staff that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of making this change.



Senior Henry Dusseau demonstrates his signature school nap technique.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

# Bright future for musical prodigy

Jessie Cohen '17, Co-Circulation Manager

Nine-year-old Tyson Graham, an extremely medically challenged and blind musical prodigy, recently received the chance of a lifetime. After a friend emailed a short video of Graham playing the piano to the Gifted Music School in Utah, the directors of the school contacted him and asked if he could come for an audition immediately. The school was so impressed with his audition that Graham was accepted and awarded a full scholarship to the prestigious Academy Program at the school to pursue his musical abilities.

Graham is a gifted musician with perfect pitch and a never-ending love for the piano, guitar, violin, ukulele and any other instrument that he can get his hands on. When there are no instruments around, Graham can make an instrument out of an everyday object. He has even plucked the bars on a shopping cart with his fingers to create sound.

In spite of his recent successes, not everything has always gone perfectly for Graham. He is one of three triplets born on July 15, 2005 in Mississippi, during Hurricane Katrina. Graham and his brothers, Landon and Preston, were born nearly four months premature and all of them have severe medical issues. None of the boys were expected to survive. Sadly, Preston died when he was only a day and a half old. His remains were found after the hurricane subsided. Both Graham and his brother Landon survived, but they still deal with many difficulties regarding their health. The boys are afflicted with blindness, digestive system issues, Cerebral Palsy, and Landon

also suffers from seizures.

Despite their challenges, the Graham family maintains an optimistic outlook on everything. The family feels that even though they have many things working against them, their children are incredible and a blessing in their life. "People tell me they are sorry," Graham's mother, Laura said in a phone interview, "and that they feel bad for everything we have to go through, but I think it is great. I love my kids."

At the moment, Graham is working on a 14-page piano concerto. However, because he is blind, he cannot read the music. Instead, he listens to recordings of the pieces he is going to play in small sections, and then sits down at the piano to play them. What may be viewed as roadblocks by the average person have never stopped Graham from doing what he loves.

Similarly to Graham, everyone at BHS faces their own set of challenges. These problems will not just go away, and Graham can be an inspiration to anyone facing setbacks in life that they can find a way to move past these obstacles to be able to achieve their goals. Students can learn from his attitude and optimism that the small, or even large, issues in their life can be overcome with dedication and hope. Check out YouTube if you want to see more of Tyson Graham.



Photo courtesy of Laura Graham

Tyson, in his family home, plays the piano.

## From solving for X to solving BHS problems

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

For seven years, Mr. Andrew Meloche has served as a teacher at BHS, until now. Meloche made the jump from the math hallway to the Student Service Center where he takes on the role of the new assistant principal. His responsibilities include overseeing students with last names of H through R, the departments of mathematics, special education and fine and performing arts. Meloche said, "When I first started I thought I was going to be teaching forever." He continued, "but gaining some more leadership roles throughout the years around the building is what really pushed me towards this job."

There is no doubt being a teacher and an administrator are two totally different jobs with different responsibilities, but Meloche said, "When I was teaching, I could pretty

much plan out my days and know what it was going to be like, but as vice principal you can't do that, so every day is different." He commented that his days go by faster, but said, "Never say never," when asked if he would ever return to teaching math one day. As of now, he does not see himself returning to the math hall anytime soon.

BHS is lucky to have a new assistant principal that cares as much as Meloche does about students. He said, "When making the decision to take the job it was simple. As a teacher I can help 130 students a year, and as assistant principal I can help 1300." The expectations are set high but Meloche is eager to exceed them. He will be a great addition to the administration and will help maintain a pleasurable learning atmosphere at BHS.



Photo by Jake Kreimbring

Meloche is ready to take on the problems of BHS.

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## 16 THE SPECTATOR

## GET YOUR SPOOK ON

Zoe Blake '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

Over the past few weeks, I visited a ton of haunted houses in the Oakland County. I have concluded that these are the best, not only due to location or pricing, but in quality as well.



**Location:** Pontiac

**Typical driving time from BHS:** 20-30 minutes

**Scare factor (1-10):** 9/10

**Pricing (depending on what package you purchase):** \$28-\$45

**Description:** The biggest and most well known of the haunted houses, is also one of the top scariest. Featuring a "freaky circus," swamp, mental hospital and much more. It was the most professional of the three due to the effects and their set up. But, it has the longest wait and highest prices.



**Location:** Pontiac

**Typical driving time from BHS:** 20-30 minutes

**Scare factor (1-10):** 7/10

**Pricing (depending on what package you purchase):** \$13-\$30

**Description:** Located fairly close to Erebus, this haunted house is usually overlooked by those trying to get really scared. But haunted house-goers should give this attraction a chance because, unlike Erebus, this haunted house is more like a game, and what happens while you play determines your experience overall. It is however, not very big, so your time there will not last too long.



**Location:** Warren

**Typical driving time from BHS:** 15-20 minutes

**Scare factor (1-10):** 5.5/10

**Pricing:** \$15

**Description:** Short and sweet. The atmosphere here was a lot more "fun" as no one was overly scared and everyone was just having a good time. They also typically have great deals. For example, if you bring your student ID to their attraction they will cut the ticket cost down to \$10 as opposed to \$15.



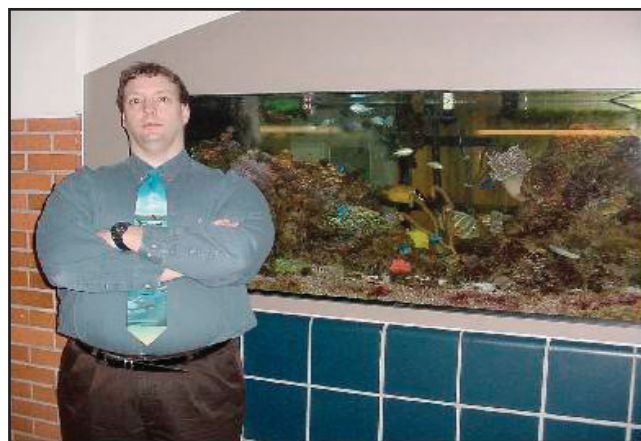
## THE MOST INTERESTING MAN ALIVE

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

Step into BHS, turn left and walk straight. Keep walking. No, you are not there yet. Keep walking. Once you reach the very end of the hallway, look to your left. Climb these stairs. You may be out of breath. Do not worry, you are not out of shape (well, you may be, but we do not know because you are a fictional character that we are making up). These stairs are on a 90 degree angle, we swear. Once you reach the top of the stairs, there will be a set of red doors. Do not hesitate to enter, even though the smell may warn you otherwise. Follow your nose and you should happen upon another door full of *Marvel* posters and a sign that reads "Enter at your own risk." Despite what you may think, this sign is not a joke. However, what awaits you on the other side of the doors is well worth the impending peril.

If you did enter these doors, you have entered Narnia. Just kidding, you entered Hogsmeade. Wait, we mean Neverland. Did we say Neverland? We meant Candy Land. But really, if you have ended up in any of these places you have gone too far. Sorry to disappoint, but it is actually just a secluded classroom in the corner of the school. Do not let that get you down. This classroom is one of a kind, and it is inhabited by snakes, a skink (not a skank), fish, rats and a science teacher, Mr. Scott Doty.

Although you are surrounded by some exotic species, the one sitting in the chair behind the desk, is the most interesting creature of them all. He is most commonly known for



Mr. Scott Doty stands next to his beloved fish.

Photo courtesy of [www.berkleyschools.org](http://www.berkleyschools.org)

teaching AP Biology, Honors Zoology, and Biology. If you have never interacted with Doty, he probably seems just like any other science teacher. This could not be more inaccurate. What sets him apart from other normal science teachers are his unique "talents." If you are ever in a situation when you need to know about an animal, Doty can tell you anything that there is to know. He can actually just look at a picture for less than a second and recite more information than you could find in a text book. While this may not benefit you as much as the previously mentioned talent, Doty has a passion for reading and says that he "reads 200-300 books a year," which is a whole darn lot of books. If you were to muster up the courage and ask Doty yourself about his talents, he may not answer with the previous ones named. Do not be surprised if he responds with another question

such as, "I am good at beating people up, so does that count as a talent?" Do not take that lightly though, Doty has bench pressed 365 pounds and is an expert in martial arts. So, just stay on his good side.

Doty is one of the most interesting people in the world, or at least at BHS. He has abilities to recite endless information that an average person could not dream of possessing. If you have not made the trip to get to know him, we assure you that it is worth the strenuous hike up those stairs. So please, turn left and keep walking.

# BHS staff increases in quantity and quality

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

This year, the BHS community welcomed many new teachers. To help you get to know them, we have included a quick bio. Even more new teachers will be introduced in the November issue.



## Ms. Chelsea Lupenec

- **Hometown:** Rochester Hills, MI
- **College:** Western Michigan University (currently enrolled in Wayne State University to get her Master's degree in special education)
- **Hobbies:** Enjoys hanging out with friends and listening to a variety of music
- **Favorite Food:** Sour Patch Kids

"[I like] the community and the way the teachers all support each other."



## Mr. Ray Ostrowski

- **Hometown:** St. Claire Shores, MI
- **College:** Saginaw Valley State University
- **Hobbies:** Coaching football, working out
- **Favorite Food:** Fish, Steak, can make some "Mean" tacos

"The student diversity [and] participation here is phenomenal. The kids make the school."



## Mrs. Amanda Schillinger

- **Hometown:** Howell, MI
- **College:** Eastern Michigan University, Northwood University, and University of Arizona
- **Hobbies:** Yoga
- **Favorite Food:** Thai

"I love the students [and] the administrators; it has been a really positive work environment."



## Mr. John Cooper

- **Hometown:** Southfield, MI
- **College:** Western Michigan University (Masters from Eastern Michigan University)
- **Hobbies:** Lifting weights at the gym
- **Favorite Food:** Salmon

"The commitment from the students to their education is above anything I have experienced."

# Think pink: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month revamped

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

Kicking off Oct. 1, countries around the globe will celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with 31 days spotlighting the prevention, education and research for a cure. BCAM was founded in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries. The aim of BCAM is to promote mammography, a screening tool for the detection of early breast cancer, as the most effective weapon in the fight against breast cancer.

Since then, foundations and clubs have been formed to help circulate the phenomenon of raising awareness in order to prevent and ultimately cure breast cancer. To show support to those who have undergone or are presently battling against breast cancer, organizations and schools have bound together to not only stimulate awareness, but also to pledge donations.

One of the most branded representations of this support is the pink ribbon. According to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, "pink ribbons were distributed to all breast cancer survivors and participants of the Komen New York City Race for the Cure...and in New York City stores. Thus, this was the birth of the pink ribbon."

Each October, BHS focuses on aiding this cause in any way that they can. For example, Student Leadership sells and distributes pink ribbons for 50 cents to students and faculty, contributing the proceeds to the funding of breast cancer research. In previous years, Club for the Cure dedicated fundraising through bake sales and mass lunches to the cause. Also, the varsity football team showed their support for ending breast cancer by sporting pink jerseys, cleats and footballs during games.

In honor of BCAM, the bright pink symbol of hope is flashed across school, sports events and entertainment franchises like concerts. In addition, other organizations provide an annual walk as well as marathons to contribute to terminating breast cancer within future generations. Since the introduction of BCAM, the percentage of fatalities from this disease has greatly decreased. The hope and goal is to be permanently rid of breast cancer locally, nationally and globally.



Photo courtesy of Free anatomy pictures photography and by Jake Kreinbring

The well known Breast Cancer pink ribbon.



## 18 THE SPECTATOR

## Bike the Motor City: explore the “D”

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

Over the past three decades, Detroit has been a city stereo-typed as dangerous, disruptive and poverty-stricken where no average metro-Detroit citizen should be found spending their idle time. However, as more young people continue to pour into Detroit’s downtown sector and major city landmarks such as Belle Isle and the Detroit River Walk begin to revitalize, it is becoming more and more difficult to keep away from the Motor City.

Detroit has a variety of interesting attractions to offer its spectators including the Detroit Institute of Art (DIA), the Detroit Historical Museum, and Hitsville U.S.A. Just recently, bike tours around the city of Detroit have become increasingly popular among tourists and citizens looking for

something entertaining and informative to do. Educational, interesting, and healthy, touring Detroit by bike will allow one to see the sights of the city while also learning about its history. There are several different facilities to choose from that offer bicycle tours that vary in terms of neighborhood, theme and length, but the three most sought after within the city are Wheelhouse Detroit, Detroit Bikes! and Tour de Troit.

Each of these organizations offers an array of tours that focus on Detroit’s history as a city while also promoting recreation for its customers. These tours are highly informative and spectacularly scenic as they take tourists to major Detroit destinations like the historic St. Agnes

Church, the Renaissance Center, Hamtramck, and the Eastern Market. Each organization offers over 25 tours to choose from. However, Wheel House Detroit allows tourists to personalize their own group/family tours with the help of a Wheelhouse tour guide. Tours cost between \$25 and \$35 and run through the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

So this fall, instead of visiting the cider mill or apple orchard, go and support the Motor City with one of its very own bicycle tours. If interested in scheduling a Detroit bike tour, information for Wheelhouse Detroit, Detroit Bikes! and Tour de Troit can be found online at their respective company websites.



Bicyclists reinvigorate Detroit by holding races, events and tours in the downtown area. By bicycle, tourists and locals alike can see the city and all that it has to offer in a new light.

Photos courtesy of m-bike.

## Emma Watson confronts gender inequality at UN conference

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

On Sept. 20, 2014, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, Emma Watson, gave a speech to launch the new HeForShe campaign. Her goal in the campaign is to achieve a state of gender equality, not just for women, but for the men who are oppressed by gender stereotypes as well.

The HeForShe campaign has an ambitious goal of tackling gender stereotypes, which is no easy feat. Leading this effort is a big step for the British actress, who was starring in the Harry Potter movies not so long ago. Watson formally invites everyone to participate and speak for the cause wherever and whenever. During the speech, Watson said, “I want men to take up this mantle. So their daughters, sisters and mothers can be free from prejudice, but also so that their sons have permission to be vulnerable and human too.”

She understands how this is an issue that everybody needs to solve, not just women. Watson also claimed that, “We don’t often talk about men being imprisoned by gender stereotypes, but I can see that they are, and that when they are free, things will change for women as a natural consequence.” Watson believes that in order to achieve gender equality, everybody has to do their part. In order to achieve this goal, they need a large following to begin the fight against gender stereotypes.

Luckily for the campaign, Watson is an extremely influential figure. Her celebrity status will hopefully bring her and the HeForShe campaign the positive attention it needs and deserves. When people hear about her speech on the news, it will not be just another politician serving their own interests. Perhaps, people and fans will look up to Watson and take her message to heart. She is setting a good example by putting her popularity to good use rather than wasting it like other child stars that have grown up in the spotlight. Hopefully, her actions will motivate others to actually stand up for the cause, or better yet, start their own effort in changing the world for the greater good.



Watson spoke in front of the United Nations on behalf of the HeForShe campaign on Sept. 20.

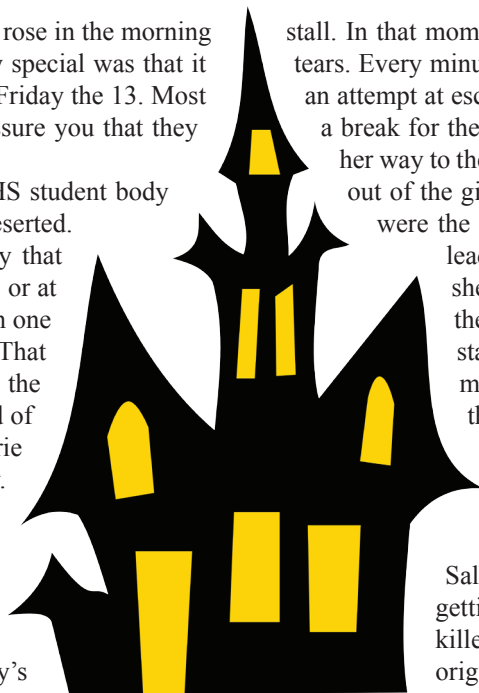
Photos courtesy of avclub.com

# THE BERKLEY BUTCHER: THE MOST CLICHÉ HORROR IN HISTORY

Madison Huff '16, Student Life Editor

It started off just as any other day would. The students of BHS rose in the morning to prepare for another normal day of school. What made this day special was that it was Friday. Not just any average Friday, but it was the infamous Friday the 13. Most students paid no attention to this small coincidence, but I can assure you that they probably wish they had.

As the bell sounded, signaling the start of first period, the BHS student body went safely to their classes, leaving the hallways completely deserted. Little “goody-two-shoes” Sally, however, arrived to school tardy that morning, which left her alone in the halls with not a soul in sight, or at least that is what she thought. Since nothing bad can happen when one is alone, Sally did not mind the quiet, empty space in the slightest. That is, until the banging sound of slamming stall doors echoed from the girls’ bathroom, which just so happened to be dead ahead. Instead of using her common sense to steer clear of whatever created the eerie sound, Johnson decided to throw her rationality out the window. As the door opened, she stood in utter shock at the sight of, well, no one. With this new sense of security, Sally made her way over to the very last stall, seeing as nature called. All of a sudden, the bathroom door swung open and what entered was definitely not a sweet, teenage girl. A tall, scary man in a mask slowly stomped his way across the bathroom until he reached the petrified Sally’s



stall. In that moment, Sally sat there, to the point of immobility, and choked back tears. Every minute that passed with her stuck in position was a minute wasted on an attempt at escaping. Finally, it clicked in Sally’s head that she needed to make a break for the door, and she started to hastily crawl from stall to stall to make her way to the one and only exit. In some sort of miracle, Sally managed to bolt out of the girls’ bathroom, looking for any possible escape. On her left there were the doors leading to the outside, and on her right were stairs which lead to the second floor. Due to her immense intellectual abilities, she decided her best bet was the stairs. Surprise, surprise, she chose the most impractical and life threatening option. While racing up the stairs, Sally decided to look over her shoulder to check if she had managed to lose him. The answer to that was a big fat ‘no’. Instead, the attacker stood at the bottom of the stairs laughing at her sad attempt at escape Sally sped up the steps as fast as she could. Due to her hasty and unfocused movements she tripped and twisted her ankle. Shocker. Now, slower than before, Sally limped her way down the main hall of the second floor.

Sally, sadly, had no real chance of escaping and was caught before getting anywhere near safety. She was then decapitated by most killers’ weapon of choice, a nice sharp and shiny kitchen knife. How original.

## GET SPOOKED

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

Since the beginning of time, humans have told stories through many mediums. From oral tales, to poetic epics, the fun and fantastic have captured the imaginations of many for ages. With Halloween just around the corner, one of the most (relatively) recent genres to come to the mainstream is the horror genre. These movies can be frightening, funny, tear wrenching and just about anything in everything. Below are some of the classics that should be watched on this upcoming holiday.



**What:** Zombies have been a staple for Halloween nights since the idea of zombies came about. Director George A. Romero brought the undead to the big screen in his 1968 film *Night of the Living Dead*. This movie follows two people named Ben and Barbra. These two get caught in the middle of a zombie apocalypse. They fight the undead and try to find salvation in a hellish world. While this movie may not be the scariest, it is one that cannot go unwatched. The zombies, effects, and acting appear to be a bit cheesy, but that is what makes this film still relevant in the modern age. It was really the movie that popularized the zombies that have become a staple in halloween and horror movies alike.

**Who should watch this:** People who don’t particularly like horror movies. This film is not scary, despite it’s horror label. For those who are not up for a true scare, the overall low quality of the gore makes this laughable at times, but it still maintains its reputation as one of the greatest horror movies to ever come about.



**What:** This movie takes place at Camp Crystal Lake summer camp in 1979. Prior to the start of the movie, in 1958, a child had died at the camp. The night that he died, two counselors were murdered for fooling around instead of watching the kids. The movie then flashes forward 21 years, with the restoration of camp Crystal Lake. This is the first time the camp was opened since the murders, and strange things begin to happen. The movie follows the new counselors and the horrific events that happen to them. This movie is a classic and is responsible for being one of the first films a part of the “slasher” horror genre. The elements of this movie, such as the blood and gore, came to design the modern horror genre.

**Who should watch this:** Everyone who is a fan of horror. This movie is one of the longest running series of movies ever, with 10 sequels as well as a remake of the original. The fact that this movie would be the basis of all 10 of its sequels is only one of many reasons to watch the film.



**What:** Ever since its release in 1984, *A Nightmare on Elm Street* has struck fear into the hearts of millions. The antagonist, Freddy Krueger, played by Robert Englund, is a severely burned man sporting a glove with blades for a weapon. This movie revolves around him stalking a group of teens in their dreams. The terrifying thing about this is that everyone sleeps, and he is almost inescapable. This movie, like *Friday the 13th*, is one that spawned numerous sequels, and continued into the 2000s. Director Wes Craven presents a masterpiece and his talents, mixed with star power like superstar Johnny Depp, is a must see for horror fans.

**Who should watch this:** This movie is bone-chilling at points. Craven gives the viewer a scare that only he knows how to. If you are not a fan of being scared, this is not the movie for you. Craven is very good at his job, and the easily scared will fall victim to his directing quickly. The squeamish may also want to avoid this one, as Freddy Krueger is not the most peaceful of guys. With the classic 80s style blood and gore that made this a staple in the genre, and even 30 years after its release, it continues to scare people.

# The International 4 brings professional gaming into the limelight

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

Since their conception, video games have been regarded as little more than a wasteful hobby. Nothing will ever come of it, society said. However, slowly but surely, gaming has made its way into the mainstream world and has formed a growing professional following. This past July, professional gaming, sometimes known as electronic sports or e-sports, broke new ground when some of the best gamers in the world battled it out for a piece of over \$10 million.

The International 4 (TI4) brings together the sixteen best Dota 2 teams from around the world travel to Seattle to compete. Dota 2 is a leading title in the Multiplayer Online Battle Arena genre, and pits two teams of five against each other in an attempt to destroy the starting base of the opposing team. With a current playable character pool of 108 and no two individual matches exactly the same, Dota 2 brings a level of depth and diversity that can only be seen in few other games. The game peaks at around 850,000 concurrent players on any given day and is free to download and play for anyone who would like to.

Jeremy Lin is a professional basketball player on the Las Angeles Lakers and is a fan of Dota 2. "Dota and basketball are actually kind of similar in the fact that they're 5 on 5 games... you definitely have to understand the game and work on it, hone your skills," Lin said in the documentary *Free to Play*, which features the events of the first International. *Free to Play* offers a more in-depth look at Dota 2 and is available to watch on YouTube for free.

The company behind Dota 2, Valve Software, started the prize pool of TI4 at \$1.6 million and sold interactive compendiums, an electronic book with content related to the International, to grow the total prize amount. Sold for \$10 each, 25 percent of every sale went to increasing the prize pool, boosting close to \$11 million. With this massive amount of prize money, the scale of TI4 surpassed that of the prestigious golf tournament, the Masters.

The best gamers in the world have achieved celebrity status among the playerbase of the game they have mastered. They often live in dedicated team houses and can practice for more than eight hours a day. The most successful gamers have made over \$500,000

during the course of their careers. In the same way celebrities do, some develop followings of people attracted to their personalities, their style of play or their teaching abilities. Lin likens the commitment of being a professional gamer to his personal experience as a professional basketball player. "I think it's very similar when you want to go professional in any type of competition. It takes a ton of work, it takes a lot of strategy, it takes a lot of commitment and takes a lot of discipline," Lin said.

The live streaming service, Twitch, gives people unprecedented access to the players, as many of them practice their craft live on stream. "Imagine if LeBron James and Michael Jordan, in every practice and every live NBA game, had a GoPro camera strapped to their chest and they had an earbud where they can hear people ask direct questions and occasionally answer it when they're playing," Dennis Fong, a retired professional gamer, who has been dubbed the Michael Jordan of gaming, said.

The main event spanned four days, from July 19 - July 21. The event was held at KeyArena in Seattle, selling out the 17,500 seats in under an hour. In addition, TI4 was broadcast over Twitch in eight languages. The tournament attracted over 20 million viewers, with peak concurrent numbers hitting two million, over twice the amount of last year. ESPN3 showed the grand finals online, which was the first time a professional gaming match had been shown by



The International Four taking place at the Key Storne Arena in Seattle.

Photo courtesy of wiki.teamliquid.net/dota2

a major sports network.

The grand finals saw Chinese veteran team Newbee defeating ViCi Gaming, a blend of experienced and younger talent from China, 3-1. Newbee won their deserved 48 percent of the prize pool, adding up to over \$5 million. ViCi Gaming received only 13.5 percent, equivalent to slightly under \$1.5 million and the young American team, Evil Geniuses, took home just over \$1 million for their third place finish.

TI4 brought professional gaming onto the mainstage. The massive tournament was featured on the cover of *The New York Times* on Aug. 31. As the scale of professional gaming tournaments continues to soar, it moves ever further into the mainstream. E-sports may soon drop the "e" and be regarded as a sport among the rest.

## The music drought continues: What to expect in the future

Justin Flood '17, Co-Circulation Manager

The summer of 2014, with great expectations because of the booming 2013 summer, was as bland as could be from the standpoint of a rap/hip-hop fan. As the year continues, rap/hip-hop fans remain irritated. From the die-hard rap fanatics who follow artists all over the world to those just looking to pass class and jam out to beats in their car, everyone is upset.

Coming off of what many refer to as one of the best summers of releases in 2013, the summer of 2014 offered very few popular album and mixtape releases. Many fans are curious as to what these artists have been doing with their time.

The majority of these artists have released singles or have been featured in other songs but are yet to create the actual contents us fans have all been craving, for so long.

Artists like Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West and Jay-Z have all been featured in the news recently, but mostly due to celebrity gossip rather than their music. Most of West's summer consisted of spending time with his new wife, Kim Kardashian, and 1-year-old daughter, North. The three were shown in countless television shows and magazine such as *Us Weekly*, *People*, *Vogue* and others has helped furthermore display West's jam-packed summer. Jay-Z and Lamar have spent their summers travelling the world and going to concerts in Europe. This



has angered fans that thrive and live off of these artists' music. Students like senior Jake Gross have felt that the drought has been immensely frustrating. Gross said, "I need my everyday music to get through class, and it is about time that these artists step it up and make new jams."

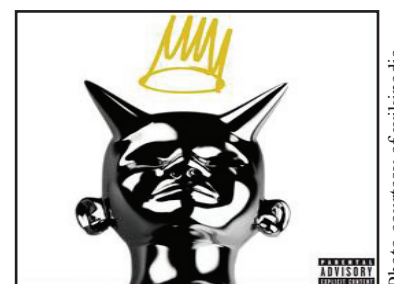
Some of the popular album releases last year such as Jay-Z's *Magna Carta Holy Grail*, J. Cole's *Born Sinner*, Chance the Rapper's *Acid Rap* and Drake's *Nothing Was the Same*, which left people in awe are still awaiting sequels.

There was so much excitement after these albums came out over the thrill of having something new to play over and over again until it can't be listened to anymore, and in terms of the arguments about which artists were on the top of the rap scene. As rumors pile up for when artists' new albums will be dropped, fans will continue to be stuck waiting for anything big to occur in the rap/hip-hop industry and take us fans out of the drought.



Chance the Rapper's album art.

Photo courtesy of Brandon Breaux



J Cole Born Sinner's album art.

Photo courtesy of wikipedia

## Bone deep in the *Skeleton Twins*

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

Moving away from the nauseating aftermath of summertime special effects movies and book adaptations, it is refreshing to step into the fall and winter films that lead into awards season. To kick off the fall movie season was the independent dramatic comedy *The Skeleton Twins*, directed by Craig Johnson and starring Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader.

This movie is somewhat new territory for Hader and Wiig, who are both prominent *Saturday Night Live* alumni and who have a strong comedic film background. The plot of *The Skeleton Twins* involves twin siblings, Milo and Maggie, who run into each other unexpectedly after not speaking for 10 years. The movie's humor comes into play as Maggie and Milo slowly begin to reconnect and restore their sibling bond. They do so in the form of gossiping about the past, dressing in drag for Halloween, dancing and much more.

Wiig has dabbled in her fair share of dramatic roles in the past, such as Cheryl in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* and other roles in independent films, while Hader has mostly stuck to comedies including *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *Superbad*. Regardless of their backgrounds, both leads give believable and compelling performances that make the movie worth seeing. Luke Wilson, who plays Maggie's husband, and Ty Burrell, who plays a past love of Milo, give strong supporting work with realistic characters.

*The Skeleton Twins* is a well-crafted movie, but the tone is quite depressing. The performances by the leads and supporting roles give the film a lighter balance. The *Skeleton Twins* is rated R for language, sexuality and drug use. The dark subject matter of depression, suicide and broken relationships may be too melancholy for some, but overall, *The Skeleton Twins* is an invigorating film that relies on the performances and character development, rather than gaudy special effects.

## *The Maze Runner* is out of breath

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

On Sept. 19, *The Maze Runner* came to theaters and with it, a swarm of hopeful fans. The movie is based off of James Dashner's novel, *The Maze Runner*, in which a group of teens are trapped in a maze and must escape or die trying.

Sadly, it is difficult to fit the best moments of a lengthy book into a two hour film. This leads to an overflow of information presented early in the film that can make it confusing and almost awkward to watch. Forcing the book into this time frame is also the cause for the restructuring of major plot points that fans of the novel may find disappointing. One aspect in particular of the story that was left out is the telepathic communication between Teresa and Thomas. An especially important piece of the story, it cemented an odd and mysterious relationship between the two for them to explore together. It also paves the way for their connection in the following books. It did not make any sense to remove this factor from the film as it would not have added to the length of the movie, and is vital to describe the depth of the connection between Thomas and Teresa.

Another component of the story that the movie lacked was its grisly sense of darkness that gripped the attention of readers. For example, when a minor character in the story attempted to go down the elevator shaft to escape and was then cut in half. The film leaves out gruesome specifics of the novel due to its PG-13 rating, and would have done better if it had been rated R. On the other hand, the dramatic moments were well depicted visually. Those, along with the few heart racing action scenes, were the main redeeming factors that made the film passable despite its variation from the story.

Overall, it is still an interesting movie, especially for people who have not read the novel. That being said, the book is worth being read after the movie. However, the film adaptation got lost in its own maze during production. Anybody who enjoyed the book may wind up dissatisfied.

## FIFA is love, FIFA is life

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

It is 1-1 with 20 seconds left in the second-half. Paris Saint-Germain just turned over the ball to Argentina around the halfway line. Messi plays a through ball to Tevez, who takes it down field into PSG's half. PSG defender, David Luiz goes up to challenge Tevez. Fifteen seconds left. Messi is at the 18. Tevez wins the battle with Luiz, makes a quick pass to Messi, who is perfectly positioned to score the winning goal. Messi strikes the ball and it hits the post. Game over. Most people at this point would set down

the Xbox and continue on with their day, basically unphased. However, missing that goal, whether playing FIFA with a friend or against the computer, would take a fatal emotional toll on some students at Berkley High School.

In recent years, the FIFA video game, where a player can choose a soccer team to build to play against other teams, has become a phenomenon among students at BHS. This

has become an obsession of primarily the male gender population. Hours of dedication and hard work are spent in order to win this game. A loss may even cause a mental break down. Friendships are put to the test. Tensions rise to an extreme and almost dangerous point. A non-FIFA player may wonder why these boys risk their mental health and friends for a game.

However, avid FIFA user junior Jacob Murphy claims that the competition is part of what makes the game so appealing. "Everyone claims to be better than everyone so it's very competitive," Murphy said. Competition between friends is partially what keeps the FIFA fad alive.

About a month ago, the FIFA craze became even more intense with the release of the newest version, FIFA 15. With a more vivid resolution, this game is drawing even more people into this animated world of soccer. "FIFA 15 is more realistic and the new squad updates are incredible," senior Patrick Falk said.

Instead of just watching a soccer game, FIFA users have the ability to control it and feel a sense of pride when they emerge as champions. FIFA is love. FIFA is life.



Feeling the frustration fellow Fifa 15 player throws Television.



Boys playing, FIFA engrossed in the gameplay.

Photos courtesy of flickr.com/sergesgal

# Fall Sports Update

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor and Justin Flood '17, Co-Circulation Manager

## FOOTBALL

So far, the Bears have crushed the expectations set for them coming into the 2014 season. Led by a whole new offense, the Bears began their season with a victory against the Holly Broncos 34-7.

The following week, the Bears came home for their first game at Hurley and proceeded to trounce the Pontiac Phoenix 55-9 in a game played over two days due to inclement weather.

In week three, the fans of Berkley and Ferndale voted their upcoming contest as the MLive Detroit Game of the Week, and it certainly did not disappoint. The game included a military appreciation ceremony at halftime, special jerseys, and a great deal of drama as the Bears outlasted Ferndale in double overtime.

The following two weeks were no different than the first three, as they ended in victories: 42-0 at Hazel Park and 21-20 at Avondale, a team who at that time had a winning record. Week six was the Bears' first lost, 41-13 to the league leading Farmington Falcons, but the Bears kept their heads up and bounced back at home with a big win in

the homecoming game, which came down to a field goal made by junior Austen Wood with only minutes left to go.

The season has been particularly remarkable considering that senior Jake Cummings, the team's starting quarterback, was playing wide receiver just last year. Cummings said, "Our team chemistry has been a lot better this year, and it has shown in the games." Clearly, the tight knit group has carried their friendships onto the field as it has helped them to a 6-2 record.



Cummings leads the Bears to the line.

Photo courtesy of Jacob Herskovitz

## SOCCER

The boys' soccer team has faced a lot of adversity this year with injuries and loss of some major contributors to their team going into the season. These members include injured seniors Patrick Falk and Noah Matthews, with a torn ACL. Nevertheless, they have managed to pull through with a great season, a 12-9-1 record. Junior Zach Hobson said, "Outside of league play, we performed very well."

The squad had powerful tournament play in East Lansing where they finished second. Their first playoff game was underway where Berkley took on Groves and had an outstanding 3-1 win with senior Jason Wingate powering the team to victory with all three goals.

Berkley then went on to play a strong Brother Rice team two nights later in the second round of the playoffs. The Bears beat Birmingham Brother Rice in a hard-fought 1-0 win. They then advanced to the district finals game against a very tough Bloomfield Hills.

Unfortunately, the team lost a shocker in overtime, losing 3-2. Being able to learn from their mistakes and following up their strong season, Hobson believes that the soccer team will have many returning players next year that will make for a great season. With the strength of the returning players, as well as the incoming talent, the Bears will remain an exciting team to watch.



Junior Peyton Gallagher takes on a defender.

Photo courtesy of Jacob Herskovitz

\*continuation on page 23

# Fantasy football: not a bright fantasy for all

Drew Leshman '17, Bull's Eye Editor

On Sept. 4, the National Football League season began. After week one was completely finished on Sept. 9, anyone and everyone who decided to be involved in a fantasy football league started to realize the dilemma they were going to face throughout the year.

Just a couple of weeks into the season, fantasy football participants already required some help. Top draft picks like Adrian Peterson, Ray Rice, and Jamaal Charles were not able to play in the first couple of weeks due to injuries and suspensions. There is one main problem with all of these critical injuries and suspensions—no matter how long the players were out, the first few weeks are always important. This leaves participants begging for help as half of their fantasy football team is in some way not able to play in the games. The majority of these injuries and suspensions that have recently occurred, especially the suspensions, will not be solved by the end of the season since court dates are scheduled after the ending date of the season, which leaves fantasy owners disappointed each week.

These injuries and suspensions made it extremely

difficult for fantasy owners to accomplish the win each week. "[The player losses] did screw people over, and teams can be extremely good, but there are players that are out, and it ruins the entire team," senior Noah Kretchmer said. He continued, "It gives owners no chance to make the playoffs." When fantasy teams fall behind in the first



Another shameful week for this owner.

couple of weeks, it makes it even more difficult for them to fight back and reach the intense playoffs.

Of course there are injuries when players can do nothing about it, and it is not their fault, such as leaping

across the goalline to give their team a touchdown, or even diving to block a long pass; there are also foolish injuries and those are what get fantasy owners really aggravated. For example, linebacker Stephen Tulloch from the Detroit Lions suffered a torn ACL after celebrating from a critical tackle against the Green Bay Packers in week three of the NFL season. Tulloch was the most valuable player on the defensive unit for the Lions. This injury led to the Lions being dropped in many leagues and unfortunately affecting countless fantasy teams.

Injuries and suspensions are truly horrific events that are common across all national sporting leagues, and as bad as they might be for the actual NFL team, it is even worse for their fantasy owner because now their team is in critical condition. When people's fantasy teams begin to face these problems, they face immediate issues and their postseason hopes slowly drift away. Players need to think twice next time before celebrating excessively and tearing their ACL because what they do really does have a huge impact on their supportive fans and even their dedicated fantasy owners.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

# Fall Sports Update

## CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team hit the ground running this 2014 season. There are three league Jamborees per season, and after the third one, the points are added together and impact positions for leagues. The girls' team started off the league season with second place finishes in their first OAA Blue Division Jamboree. They had their second jamboree on Sept. 30 and finished third. The boys' team also finished second in the first jamboree and have been looking favorable. Senior Megan Kossak said, "The boys have really stepped up; a lot of good freshmen brought their A-game." It's no surprise that the teams have been so successful thus far. Kossak said, "The dynamics of the team have been better this year," and so it shows. The boys are sitting in first place after finishing first in the second Jamboree.

## VOLLEYBALL

The girls' volleyball team has had their triumphs and failures over their rocky season, but had an overall successful year. Senior Robyn Fryc said, "We were off to a slow start, but the past few games we have been picking it up and winning, starting to create some momentum." Senior captain Eliza Laramée led the team with her communication and skills. The team won their last two games, which has currently extended their league record to 7-2. Fryc said, "I try to keep a positive attitude and lot of leadership to set an example for the upcoming players." The squad, now approaching the end of their season, has managed two shut out matches against Southfield, a conference opponent. The team now prepares themselves to play in districts where the Bears will take on their toughest opponents, but are up to the task.

## BOYS' TENNIS

As the regular season concluded, the tennis team has reached success, winning a tournament and placing third in a second to advance to regionals. Senior Graham Wise said, "I think we have all worked hard this season, which is why we have done well." Led by senior Noah Kretchmer, the tennis team was just barely knocked out in the regionals tournament sited at Birmingham Groves and Seaholm high schools. They needed to score 18 points to advance to states for the third consecutive year, but were held to just 17 in a nerve-racking finish. Kretchmer, however, was able to advance to states by making it to the regional final. Though the team was not able to advance to states, the season was excited by other successes, and the effort and dedication shown in the outcome by the participants.

\*All sports have been updated as of Oct. 22 at press time.

## Lions' linebacker added to list of embarrassing celebratory injuries

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

On Sept. 21, the Detroit Lions suffered a major loss when starting linebacker Stephen Tulloch was injured on the field while celebrating the sack of fellow teammate and defensive end, Ziggy Ansah.

Tulloch was imitating Aaron Rodgers' signature discount double check celebration from the State Farm commercial, but the fun was over when Tulloch got a bit too intense and tore his ACL on the jump. The injury has forced the Lions to play backup linebacker Tahir Whitehead. On Sept. 28, during the Lions' game against the Jets, Tulloch announced at a press conference that he was disappointed that he will not be able to play the rest of the season and joked about the injury and said, "I'd do it again."

Lions' fans, after the game, felt as though some of these celebrations should be monitored for the teams' well-being and player safety. Others claim that football is a game of emotion, and it would be insulting to put a cap on a player's energy. Fans usually enjoy seeing these victorious gestures, but since it has caused trouble for the defense, they are not pleased about Tulloch's statements and lack of response from head coach Jim Caldwell. Many believe that Tulloch has taken it too far and is the first to have injured himself during a celebration, but he is not.

On Nov. 24, 1997 quarterback Gus Frerotte of the Washington Redskins injured his neck in the second quarter against the New York Giants. This injury was extremely serious, and Frerotte was later taken in the back of an ambulance where he was later diagnosed with a severe neck injury. The celebration of a one yard running touchdown started out normal: the fiery Frerotte spiked the ball into the outer wall of the stadium then stopped celebrating for a moment. Just when fans thought the celebration was over, Frerotte ran his head into the wall spraining his neck. The Redskins' QB missed three games that season and 13 games the next year.

Then, on Dec. 15, 2001, the Arizona Cardinals' kicker Bill Gramatica was injured at the beginning of the first quarter facing ironically the New York Giants. The Cardinals kicker was injured celebrating the first field goal of the game. Gramatica jumped throwing his fist in the air and, like Tulloch, tore his ACL on the landing. He and teammates joked about his celebration the next day. "My jump was excellent; it was my landing I needed to work on. It was funny. It was part of my career. I talk about it all the time. You have to laugh about it," Gramatica said in an interview with ESPN.

Even during the tamest times in the National Football League a player must remain careful and vigilant. Lions' fans must remember that Tulloch is not the first to be injured during a celebration, and maybe next time a simple high-five will suffice.



Linebacker Stephen Tulloch in the midst of his infamous celebration.

Photo courtesy of DJ Gallo

## THE FEAR OF FAILURE

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

Since childhood, adults have asked us what we want to be when we grow up. Elaborate careers like an astronaut, Olympian or princess were the ideas that came to mind. However, now that I have grown older, I have found that this type of dreaming is no longer realistic. Not because my ambitions are too high, but because the only way it seems plausible to achieve happiness is to gain economic success, and the fear of failing to meet this task has left many unable to appreciate their lives currently. Traveling and experiencing new cultures has been essentially ignored because of the need to become successful. People say that knowledge is power, but that is simply not true; money is the equivalence to power. Because of this, making the world a better, more peaceful place is no longer a priority, and instead, it has turned into an unrealistic goal.

One of the catalysts that contribute to the existence of this problem is that people, including me, fear failure. It is our duty since birth to perform on a certain level to receive formal education, ensuring the possibility to move forward and succeed financially in life. To get to this point, we undergo hours upon hours of schooling and we are expected to regurgitate answers on the spot. Our education system informs students that there is never a 'stupid question,' but we all know that is not necessarily true. Asking questions has transformed into a sign of weakness rather than a chance at an opportunity to learn. The sad reality is that the majority of my peers tend to be more comfortable with remaining in the background and merely observing lectures and discussions rather than contributing their beliefs and ideals to the conversation. Since so many people strive for success in order to feel accomplished, the competitive edge among students has exponentially increased, negatively affecting this generation because it traps students into the mindset that if they do not succeed, they will ultimately fail in life.

This anxiety of not knowing what the future holds has triggered nonchalant attitudes as a façade to cover up their true emotions and worries. Presently, the pressure to prosper is at an all-time high and as a high school senior, I can concur. Seniors are expected to spend their last year of school planning for their futures, and not going to college is not an option anymore. The truth is, it is unlikely that one will thrive without a college degree. Most have no idea what university they want to attend let alone which major they want to study, and that is extremely frightening. Online programs like CareerCruising are supposed to help us solve these dilemmas, but instead, they emphasize the salary a particular job makes annually rather than providing examples and clarifying the process on how students can pursue in that career. People are so concerned with making a successful career for themselves and earning a substantial income that attaining knowledge and undergoing experiences outside of their comfort zone is not even considered anymore.

Some people view knowledge as analyzing a poem or reading about isotopes in a chemistry book, but there is so much more to it than that. Throughout the time that I have been in high school, the hands-on experiences I underwent in the classroom were the most memorable ones. They resounded with me more than studying with flashcards ever could. Debates, science experiments, group projects, skits and field trips have taught me more than I thought because it evoked an emotion. I was not bored or wanted to go home, I was enthusiastic and wanted to absorb information. But, people do not care about that anymore. Dollar bills and paychecks are what people anticipate rather than learning about culture, architecture and the world in general. The craving to earn money has surpassed the drive to obtain knowledge. Greed is not the way to attain happiness. My grandfather gave me a piece of advice that will forever resonate with me. He said, "Learn as much as you can because knowledge is the most valuable capital you can obtain in life, not money."

The fear of failure has ultimately altered the goals of people, especially teenagers. Making bold choices or choosing risky options has no longer been taken into consideration. Is this generation going to become more obsessed with earning a high paying job rather than changing the world for the better? Do not get me wrong, the determination to flourish is a powerful trait. But, we are using it selfishly. How do we expect to change the world when we cannot change ourselves? We cannot.

## LIVING NOW OR NEVER

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

As I go into my third year of high school, I have come to quite a few realizations about being in this stage in my life. The stereotypical problem that teenagers are faced with is being expected to act like adults but being treated like kids. This is probably what someone might think of when they consider the typical high school complaints and concerns. As I think about it, and gain more life experience, there are aspects about being this age that go way beyond the surface that people really only seem to think about or be concerned with. Instead, the conflict lies between the future and current lives of students everywhere.

Yes, I believe that we are at an awkward stage between adulthood and childhood, but that is not where the confusion and struggle truly lies. The real divide is between the future that we spend our hours, days and years preparing for and the life that we are living this very second. It is a complicated issue of finding a balance that there is no concrete solution for, but there are ways to decrease the separation between only preparing for the future and never giving life after today a moment of thought. Problems can arise by focusing on just the future or just the present that can be equally detrimental, and that is why one must consider both options with equal importance.

High school is a stepping stone in a person's life that gets them ready for the next stages; there is no doubt about that. Counselors, teachers and parents are constantly saying that students should do everything to prepare for college or whatever it is that they want to do when they leave here. One must make it successfully through this time if they wish to have any success later on. The courses and the quality at which one achieves in their classes sets them up for either a bright, successful future or one in which they may struggle. People that pile on the APs and honors classes are the people that are thinking one step ahead about how this could influence the rest of their lives. That being said, the people that find themselves in these classes tend to be anxious and stressed out as they make go through their time here. Speaking from personal experience, the rigorous schedules and pressure that we put on ourselves tends to lead to unhappiness.

BHS had a speaker come in and talk to every student about the struggles of high school. As cliché as this may sound, he made a statement that really made me reflect on life. He said that we all live like we are going to make it to 90, but the truth is that may never happen. The reality is that every kid, including me, makes themselves go through this unhappiness and stress to build a future that sadly, may never exist.

This being said, a person cannot live their life as if they are going to die tomorrow. I know that all of those inspirational quotes may say that one should live every day like it is their last, but that is just not realistic. Students must prepare themselves for what comes next, or they are going to have a difficult time making a place for themselves later on in their lives. This preparation is key, but the overachieving people tend to take preparation to a level of stress and anxiety that is unhealthy. When people spend their entire high school lives as one big preparation, when are they ever making time to be happy?

Obviously, school is something that we need to get ready for college and then the real world. Whether it is college or going straight into a career, every person should expect to have a life after high school. It is important, but in all honesty, staying focused in a place as distracting as high school is an extremely difficult task. Speaking for myself and probably a bunch of others, if I went through my experience here as if every day was going to be my last I would take the easiest classes, never do homework, never show up to class and put little to no effort into everything that I did. I am not saying that I am a slacker, but if I lived for just my happiness, there are so many other things that would take priority before school.

There are people that live in this way and do what they want to do whenever they want. People that enjoy their time here and are not concerned with life later on most likely struggle to succeed. When one is used to doing whatever it is that they feel, the real world can be a major wake up call. One cannot hold a job if they have no work ethic or commitment that can really only be gained through an experience like high school.

If a person has never been able to take a look at how their actions could affect their life down the road, they will never realize that they must have some sense of responsibility to succeed in anything. Most people develop the ability to analyze their decisions through high school, but if someone were to disregard this time, they would lose this valuable insight. High school may not be the most fun at all times, and while some things that we learn are unimportant, the process of being accountable for your actions that it teaches us goes beyond any lesson we learn in a classroom.

The two examples of these problems highlight extreme situations, but every single person falls somewhere in between the overworked, stressed out student to the not caring, slacker student. Everyone has a struggle between this future that is not guaranteed and the happiness that they want to feel in the moment.

After years of struggling to find out which path is better to take, I have realized that there is no right answer. Everyone has different ideas of the futures that they want to have and how much they are willing to sacrifice for the life that they want years down the road. Life is a confusing thing that students have to figure out as they go, and the key to being content and finding comfort is the balance that they find between these two lifestyles. In reality, complete happiness is not going to be achieved, but if one works hard now while remaining in a healthy mindset, it can be possible down the road.