

THE SPECTATOR

February 2015

Pro Bowl
pg. 22



Secret Service
spoof
pg. 10

Volume LXV • Issue V



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Ask Dr. Doctor Bennett

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

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

Do you believe the world is round or are you like the folks that still believe the world is flat?

I am not stupid. I like to base my beliefs off of facts, and I do not see any evidence for the other side. Clearly, the earth is flat. If it were round we would be able to see the curvature of the earth with our naked eyes. Also, even though pictures of the earth taken from space have been released by the government, how can we trust them? The government lies all the time. There is no reason to think the earth is round. Come on, try, give me one valid reason why you think the world is round.

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

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

1. Salt water lakes
2. The Upper Peninsula
3. Veggie Straws
4. Construction paper
5. Stools



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

Why is everyone at Berkley so judgmental and hate people they have never even spoken to in person?

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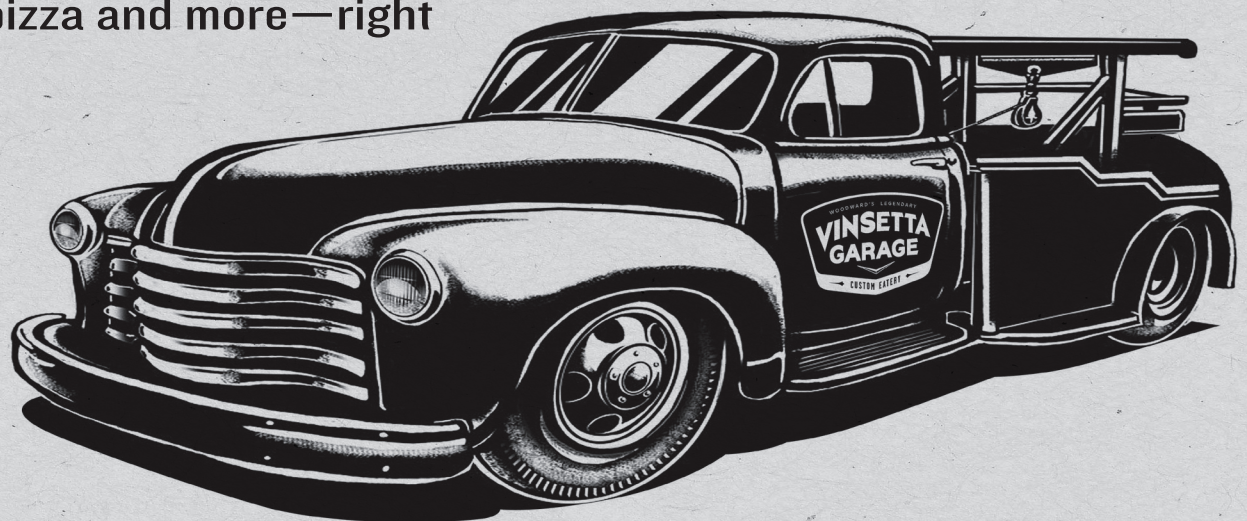
The *Spectator* Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: look for Jayna Carden hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165/116 and show her where Carden is! 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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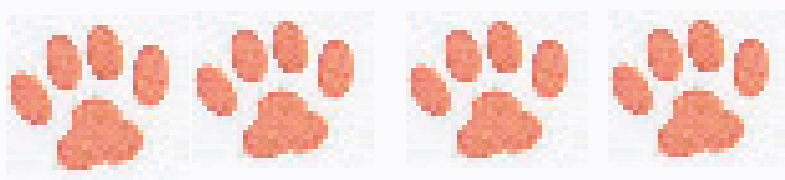
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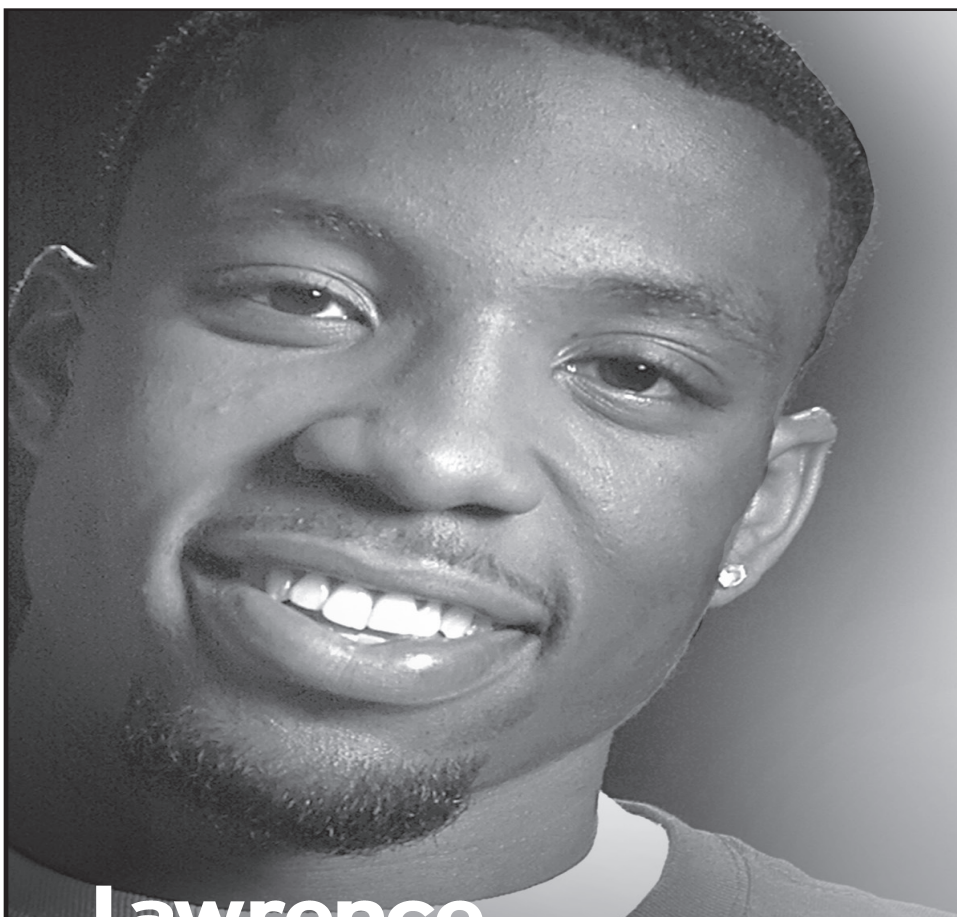
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The future of net neutrality

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor and Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on Feb. 26 on the topic of net neutrality. The concept of net neutrality, a term coined by Columbia Law Professor Tim Wu, is Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Comcast or AT&T cannot manipulate or interfere with the information they receive and send, making the Internet effectively neutral. The FCC had regulations which restricted ISPs from analyzing, monitoring or manipulating data in any way.

On the week of Feb. 2, the FCC Chairman, Tom Wheeler, proposed a new set of rules which would ensure net neutrality under law. Among the proposal is reclassifying ISPs as a common carrier under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. A common carrier is responsible for the protection of the goods or services it transports and is subject to regulation by a governing body, such as the FCC. For ISPs, this would be data and information. Telephone, television and radio all fall under the classification of common carrier.

In Jan. 2014, the D.C. District Court of Appeals determined that two of the regulations in place were an overstep of the FCC's bounds. The first rule banned broadband providers from blocking a user's access to lawful Internet services, mostly applicable to a company like Skype, a competitor to many ISPs' telephone companies. The other rule prevented ISPs from charging Internet content providers, such as Netflix or Google, extra fees to make their websites faster. The restrictions were mainly in place to prevent the established companies gaining a major advantage over startups who do not have the resources to pay for faster Internet speeds.

A survey from the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communications showed that 81 percent of American citizens oppose ISPs charging more for Internet "fast lanes." The same study indicated that net neutrality is seeing widespread bipartisan support, with 81 percent of democrats and 85 percent of republicans in favor. Even many of the companies who stand to benefit from a lack of net neutrality, like Comcast, publically hold a position of support for complete net neutrality.

Other Internet advocacy groups focus their attention not on the problem of "fast and slow lanes," but on the power and size of the ISPs themselves. forty percent of American

households receive high speed Internet from Comcast since the ISP merged with their former major competitor, Time Warner Cable. According to the Editorial Board of the New York Times, the merger created "a telecommunications colossus, the likes of which the country has not seen since 1984 when the government forced the breakup of the original AT&T telephone monopoly." Many believe that ISPs hold a near monopoly already, and a lack of restrictions promoting net neutrality may only increase their power.

Net neutrality has been at the forefront of the public consciousness since the circuit court struck down the regulations last year. The debate ushered in a new era of legal and social controversy over the free use of the Internet. The FCC decision on Feb. 6 will define the interactions between content providers and ISPs well into the future.

Perhaps the most concerning thing about this whole issue is the lack interest from the teen population. The idea of people being able to control internet speeds would send most teens reeling, but without the knowledge to form opinions and fight the possible legislation makes the fight uphill. The U.S has seen the strength at which teen Internet users can have when they act upon legislation they see unfair. Back when the Stop Online Piracy Act was on the verge of being passed, people everywhere made calls, sent emails and got in touch with their representatives, the act was denied with so much force that it would send a message to big businesses that legislation of that sort would not stand. This is the type of statement that people are making currently, but a push from teenagers would make this legislation nearly impassable. People are sending e-mails in record numbers (around 4 million emails have been sent concerning the topic), but the lack of interest and involvement from most teens is problematic. In the words of senior Tyler Coon, "If we are going to keep free speech on the internet in any way [net neutrality] is [absolutely] essential." This legislation could severely limit futures, whether that be the simple act of browsing or the individuals not having the same treatment as big businesses online, it will affect every single teen at Berkley High School's life if restrictions on net neutrality are implemented.

*All information is up to date as of press time Feb. 12.

Civil rights sit-in group exonerated

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

On Jan. 28, the 16th Circuit Court Judge in South Carolina announced that The Friendship Nine, an activist group, was exonerated of 54-year-old criminal charges. The nine men, eight of whom went to Friendship College in Rock Hill, S.C., were arrested and taken to jail on Jan. 31, 1961 for protesting segregation by sitting at a whites-only lunch counter.

Refusing to pay the \$100 bail, the men further challenged segregation by staying in jail and serving on a chain gang for 30 days. They helped to set in stone the "Jail No Bail" method that fought the financial problems of expensive bails faced by civil rights activists during that time.

Children's author Kimberly P. Johnson, who wrote *No Fear For Freedom: The Story Of The Friendship 9*, became inspired to pursue justice for the men after meeting them in 2011. Johnson then went to Prosecutor Kevin Brackett to see what could be done about the situation of The Friendship Nine.

Brackett wanted to make sure that the men were not being pardoned. "A pardon is an act of forgiveness and what these guys needed wasn't forgiveness because they didn't do anything wrong. What these guys needed was justice, and a pardon didn't really speak to the underlying problems with the fact of the conviction in the first place," Brackett said, urging for the men's names to be cleared completely in order to fully apologize for the injustice they faced.

While there are some mixed feelings by civil rights supporters on whether or not the exoneration of the charges erases the history that these men created, they will always be known as heroes.

ISIS prisoner swap goes poorly

Jessie Cohen '17, Staff Writer

On Saturday, Jan. 23, a new video from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was released with photographic images of the beheaded body of Japanese hostage Haruna Yukawa being displayed by another hostage, Japanese journalist Kenji Goto. Both of these men were taken hostage after Japan decided to put \$200,000 towards retaliating against ISIS. In the video, Goto announces that he will be the next murdered person if ISIS' demands are not met. Rather than seek ransom money, ISIS has asked for Sajida al-Rishawi, an Islamic extremist who was convicted of participating in a fatal 2005 bombing, to be released from Jordan as part of a prisoner exchange.

Also involved in the swap is Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kaseasbeh. Jordan agrees to trade al-Rishawi if al-Kaseasbeh is released to them unharmed. This exchange would also free Goto. Efforts to free both the journalist and the pilot became more urgent on Tuesday, Jan. 26 when ISIS gave Jordan the ultimatum that both men would be killed within 24 hours if al-Rishawi was not freed. In a surfaced recording of Goto, the prisoner said, "If Sajida al-Rishawi is not ready for exchange for my life at the Turkish border, the Jordanian pilot will be killed immediately."

On Jan. 31, 2015, a 66-second video was released supposedly showing the detached head of Goto. This video surfaced after the Jordanian government said that they would release al-Rishawi, but only in exchange for the pilot. The status of the pilot's life remained unclear until a video of an ISIS member burning al-Kaseasbeh alive was released on Tuesday, Feb. 3, so Jordan made no move to release their hostage. They later executed her.

Goto and al-Kaseasbeh now join a number of other foreigners, and scores of locals, to be murdered by the terrorist group, and ISIS is by no means finished.

*All information is up to date as of press time Feb. 12.

Saudi Arabia mourns the loss of a leader

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

On Jan. 23, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques died at 90 years old after being hospitalized with pneumonia for three consecutive weeks.

His funeral was held on that same day at the Grand Mosque of Riyadh. Many world leaders went, including the Russian Prime Minister, the Turkish President and the Egyptian President. President Obama, unable to attend, flew to Saudi Arabia on Jan. 27. Thousands more paid their respects when Abdullah was buried in Al Oud Cemetery, and flags flew at half-mast for three days as a statement of national mourning.

Abdullah had been viewed as a reformer. He improved the state of education in Saudi Arabia by replacing members of the Ministry of Education. He pushed for the construction of the King Abdullah University for Science and Technology, a new center for advanced research. With terrorism a problem in lands so close to Saudi Arabia, Abdullah vowed to fight it and has weakened it directly through security crackdowns and indirectly, through other reforms.

Recently, Abdullah has been responsible for the drop in oil prices. As demand for oil

fell, countries such as Saudi Arabia, the world's second-largest oil producer, have kept up production. This means that as demand fell, supply continued to rise, which led to a decrease in oil prices. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has met, but was unable to reduce production to drive up prices, as the current low prices are damaging global economies that rely heavily on that income. Saudi Arabia, a member of OPEC, remembered how this scenario arose in the past. The country has decided to keep production up, as reducing output did not raise prices in the past.

During the 10 years he was king, many did not anticipate Abdullah to be so influential. During a speech before Abdullah was even buried, his half-brother and successor, King Salman, said, "We will continue adhering to the correct policies which Saudi Arabia has followed since its establishment." He believes the country needs to establish stability throughout this time of conflict in the Middle East. This ensures that Abdullah's changes will continue to benefit the country, even in his absence.

Local JCC drowning in debt

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Currently, the Oak Park Jewish Community Center (JCC) officials are discussing the likelihood of it permanently closing this summer due to massive financial instability. This beloved community center is nearly \$1 million dollars in debt and is expected to shut their doors May 31, 2015 if a donation to the facility is not made in time or the building is not purchased. However, there has been no official decision disclosed at this point.

News of the Oak Park facility's potential closure has upset many. Hundreds packed into the JCC of Oak Park on the night of Monday, Jan. 12 to voice their concerns. In an interview with *The Detroit Free Press*, Tova Schreiber of Oak Park said, "Something has to be done to save it; it provides a very valuable service for different segments of the community." It was a meeting held inside the center as citizens assembled to discuss their concerns with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and JCC leaders about their movement to close the center. Around 800 residents attended, with police blocking further people from entering due to fire safety regulations.

During this meeting, the leaders of the center and Federation shared that the Oak Park and West Bloomfield JCC have had an annual loss of around \$1 million dollars for the past several years. However, this longstanding financial challenge was only brought to light in the fall of 2013. An anonymous, former JCC employee said, "I think the department needs to obviously be monitored more closely even if it means putting cameras in any department that deals with money." On top of this overwhelming debt is the costs of maintenance and repairs that have yet to be completed, but must be if the facility intends to stay open. That is an additional \$450,000 added to the total debt the JCC has accumulated.

This possible closure not only affects the residents of Oak Park community, but the employees of the JCC as well. All employees were informed of the closing prior to the meeting held on Jan. 12 and were told that they would need to find new jobs. The payrolls of those who work for the facility have been wrongly compromised and have for years now. The former JCC employee said, "They were barely paying me anything to begin with and when I asked for a review and inquired about a raise they told me because of the financial situation that's not possible at this time." The lack of care in their monetary choices negatively affects those who work for this facility.

Members of the Oak Park community have taken it upon themselves to make efforts toward preventing the closing of the center. The possible shut down of the JCC has led to a strong refutation from some in the Oak Park area, with a petition against the closing currently at about 650 signatures thus far. Covering every possible angle, a Facebook page called "Save the Oak Park JCC," has been created in order to spread the news to the public and gain support in their attempt to keep the JCC up and running.

Drone crashes at White House

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

On the early morning of Jan. 26, 2015, a small drone crashed into a tree on the White House lawn. President Barack Obama was not on the grounds of the White House when the event occurred. As investigations continue to ensue, the Secret Service has proclaimed the drone to have been of no serious threat against the president and his family.

Originally, when the incident occurred, an immediate lockdown of the White House commenced until Secret Service officials could more closely examine the drone. According to an online article from the *New York Post*, the Secret Service described the drone as a two-foot-long device, otherwise known to be a Quadcopter, or a small, unmanned aircraft that is lifted by four propellers. Many Quadcopters are sold and used for commercial reasons and one of their main features is taking aerial shots of land for inspection. The Quadcopter associated in the incident was small in size, approximately two feet in diameter, and weighed less than two pounds. These devices are sold in many retail stores for usually less than a few hundred dollars. However, more expensive models can be purchased.

When the drone crashed, the president and First Lady Michelle Obama were traveling on a three-day visit to India to discuss plans surrounding the United States' future investments in nuclear energy development in India, with the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. As of now, it is still unclear whether or not their daughters were at the White House when the drone landed. Nonetheless, on Feb. 2, nearly a week after the episode, new details have emerged regarding who the potential owner of the drone may have been. Still unnamed, the owner of the drone is believed to be a U.S. intelligence agency employee. So far, this unidentified person of interest has declined to make a public appearance and/or statement regarding the recent occurrence.

However, it is known that the owner of the drone was unlikely to have been the only person flying the Quadcopter that evening. Additional accusations have been made towards an acquaintance of the anonymous U.S. agent, who is said to have been with the suspect the night the incident took place. It is further suspected that both the individuals involved in the case were probably intoxicated at the time of the drone's landing. Though no comments have been made directly by the unidentified U.S. intelligence agent, who does not work specifically for the White House, he has told Secret Service investigators that he flies the drone for recreational use and lent it to his friend who had the same recreational intentions for flying the device.

So far, the Secret Service has only released statements to the media claiming that they believe the suspect's account to be true, but further investigation into the mishap is underway as it is still questionable of whether or not these two unidentified persons of interest should face any legal consequences following the event.



A quadcopter similar to the model that landed on the White House lawn on Jan. 26.

Is anyone out there?

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

In World History class, we learn about the diverse religions that exist in the world. From monotheism to polytheism and everything in between, religion is used as a social guideline, a set of rules for how to live and achieve a greater and/or eternal afterlife.

For most, there are two ideologies that we believe happen when we die. The first is that we go to heaven or hell. And the alternative is that we exist in a state of eternal nothingness, a contrasting belief to those who believe in an afterlife. So, it is somewhat like the argument between evolution and creationism. The age-old question of 'what came first, the chicken or the egg?' comes to light. Some have faith in a greater power while others simply trust the scientific approach. So, why exactly do people use religion? For faith? For hope? Perhaps to repudiate the fear of death? There is no definite answer because religion is different for everyone.

People look to religion for an escape, for solace, for a sense of control, for a reason to live and for a guide to follow. Religion should be used for individual reasons, for reasons that do not need an explanation other than practicing living in terms of what one believes. Recently, however, there have been issues surrounding religion that have taken a turn for the worse, like the ISIS conflict. Like most disputes, religion is misunderstood and complicated, but people should have the freedom to express and choose their religion. It is a human right and this personal choice should not be forced upon or taken away from anyone. Religion, like many other controversial issues, can either bring people together or tear them apart. One of the many problems with ISIS is their motive for enforcing the 'right' religion. For those who are unfamiliar with Sharia law, it is essentially a very strict moral code with very limited freedoms and rights. For example, men are required to grow beards, and women are expected to show modesty by wearing full length hijabs. Sharia

law offers confinement, forced appearances and other restrictions that have nothing to do with God. ISIS is promoting an idealistic religion on people that already have their own religious values. The sad truth about situations like this is that religion is not essentially the motive, but it is rather a cover for a political stunt in order to gain power.

The purpose of religion is to allow a person to experience internal freedom, allowing them to formulate thoughts, ideas, opinions and reasons concerning how they perceive life. This inner freedom offers people the opportunity to deliberate and decide for themselves regarding how they view the world and the life (or lack thereof) afterwards. Instead, it has transformed into an external weapon of destruction in an effort to possess power. Many controversial problems in the world involve religion as a potential asset in order to express political views. Rather than condoning people to connect with God or their inner selves, leaders of wars and corrupt organizations, like ISIS, abuse the tenacity of religion in order to feel Godly. This issue of personal expression and the misuse of religion come back to the manipulation of power and the measures that people will take in order to obtain it.

The justification for inflicting pain and harsh treatment based on religion is because those in control feel they are doing justice to the system and righting the "wrongs" in the world. However, pressuring and intimidating people does not make one God, and it does not make them superior. It makes a person inhumane. So, until we as human beings learn to admit that the freedom of religion is a human right, a God given right, then we will lose hope for a brighter, more accepting and understanding future.

Cheating, stress and society

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

With advanced technology and increased stress in the life of an average teenager, cheating is becoming more advanced, complicated and prevalent. Cheating has often been associated with poorly behaved students, but in today's society, the honors students seem to be caught up in the act too. Recently, the concept as to why someone taking an Honors or AP course would try to elude doing all the work on their own has come up frequently in the last few years.

In order to better understand this phenomenon, one has to know what constitutes cheating in the first place, which can be convoluted. For example, it is common knowledge that "using any type of notes or technology without teacher approval" is considered cheating, as stated in the BHS code of conduct. But, that also means that copying a friend's homework can be the equivalent to using outside notes on a test.

While cheating is a very loose term, students must know what it constitutes and who, if anyone, is to blame. When searching for the answer, one word will come up a lot: stress. In order to understand why high achieving teens feel the need to cheat, one has to understand the high levels of pressure that is placed on them for college. Although parents and teachers only want the best for teenagers, they do not realize how negative the effects can be when placing high expectations without fully supporting and understanding other stresses that teens regularly face.

Honors 11 English teacher Mr. John Duffy has seen quite a few instances of academic dishonesty from high achieving students and finds the topic to be very complex. "When we talk about cheating, what we are really talking is a broad spectrum of behaviors and actions that violate our building's code of conduct," Duffy said, confirming how broad the word 'cheating' is. "Teachers, parents, students and community members all need to work together to create a system that makes cheating impossible and unnecessary. How we go about doing that involves a great deal of brain power, and we are not quite there yet," Duffy added. "But the goal is that [education] is not simply a memorization game where students parrot back someone else's ideas and get an A. The real goal is to seek out self-knowledge for self-improvement."

Senior Zachary Guerra also brings up a valid point on how a lot of students feel. "Cheating on something big like a test is immoral and wrong, but sometimes it can be necessary for some people. Especially vigorous courses are obviously harder and more stressful and there is a lot more at stake to cheat for than a regular core class," Guerra said explaining the complications in blaming teens specifically.

While teachers and parents can help take the load off, the student has to step up too and work hard in order to succeed in a more competitive world. If everything is catered specifically to them, they will have a very rude awakening in college and the working world.

Dishonesty is not tolerated in life beyond high school and the consequences can be much more dire. Someone does not simply become morally righteous by wanting to, they need to have these values instilled in them from an early age, and the toleration of cheating does not help this cause.

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Top 5 Arguments Against Same-Sex Marriage (And Why They Make No Sense)

Lauren Schandavel '15, Freelance Writer

On Jan. 16, the Supreme Court made the earth-shattering announcement that it would begin hearing marriage equality cases in the Sixth District, comprised of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan. If the ban on same-sex marriage is lifted (and many experts predict that it will be), it could signify the end of a judicial and legislative battle that began nearly a century ago, when the first gay rights organization was founded in Chicago.

For most, this decision is a huge relief. The rate at which American citizens and their corresponding states have embraced marriage equality has increased dramatically in the last decade, with approval at 59 percent and 72 percent, respectively.

However, despite the major shift in public opinion, not everyone is willing to surrender so easily to change, and the opposition has made it exceedingly clear that they will not go down without a fight. Here is a list of common arguments refuting same-sex marriage (inspired by the Huffington Post's "Top 10 Arguments Against Gay Marriage"), stated and debunked. Enjoy.

1. "It will destroy the sanctity of heterosexual marriages."

Not so fast—the sacred nature of marriage has been in question for decades. According to the American Psychological Association, between 40 and 50 percent of marriages in the United States end in divorce. Not to mention the current rate of domestic abuse (one in three women and one in four men are victims) and infidelity (25 percent of people admitted to cheating on their significant other in a Huffington Post poll) sure is not helping. I am not denying that marriage is a sacred tradition, nor am I implying that heterosexual couples have tarnished its reputation, I am merely arguing that making the practice more inclusive is not detrimental to the institution for which it stands. Marriage is, after all, supposed to be about love and commitment, which are requirements that same-sex couples are just as capable of fulfilling as their heterosexual counterparts.

2. "It's not natural."

Natural by what standards? If you are arguing that homosexuality does not occur in nature, then allow me to direct your attention to rams, penguins, giraffes, gulls, dragonflies and bottlenose dolphins, etc.—all of whom engage in same-sex acts for the sole purpose of sexual gratification. Just because you have had minimal exposure to something, does not mean it is "unnatural."

3. "Can't they just be happy with Civil Unions and Domestic Partnerships?"

In short, no. These "alternatives" to marriage degrade same-sex couples to the level of second class citizens and deny them benefits granted to heterosexual couples at the federal level, including social security and medical and life insurance.

4. "It is against my religion."

The idea of a separation between church and state in America can be traced all the way back to Thomas Jefferson's 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, in which he stated that a legislature should work to build "a wall of separation between church and State." Additionally, the 1797 Treaty of Tripoli reads, "the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." From its conception, the implied division between religion and public policy has influenced numerous Supreme Court decisions (i.e. Reynolds v. U.S., Everson v. Board of Education, Engel v. Vitale, etc.), confirming the notion that the United States is a nation governed by a secular administration. But if we are so adamant about converting religious teachings into law, why not include the other major biblical taboos, such as eating shellfish, wearing clothes with more than one fabric, cutting our hair, planting a garden with more than one kind of seed or working on the Sabbath?

5. "If we allow same-sex couples to get married, who's to say people won't start marrying [insert animal or inanimate object here]?"

There is no correlation between the rate at which homosexuality is accepted and the rate at which people engage in bestiality and/or object sexuality. You are essentially comparing a very serious civil rights issue to a series of ridiculous scenarios and expecting it to hold merit. Newsflash: it does not.

Women: they're not meat

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

If you haven't heard, contrary to the popular belief, women are not meat. This simple statement hasn't always seemed like a fact when one considers the essence of beauty pageants. Beauty pageants have been around since the ancient Greeks and shockingly, they're still going on today. The typical beauty pageant consists of these areas of competition: a swimsuit event, a "talent" segment, a costume portion, and an interview. Each of these has their shortcomings, but none more than the swimsuit competition in terms of the objectification of women.

The swimsuit competition might be the most over-sexualized competition in the history of competitions. The premise of this part of the pageant is that contestants strut up and down a runway in a swimsuit while getting judged strictly on their bodies. That's it. This is demeaning not only for the women participating, but for women in general.

The one part of the pageant that has any potential to be worthwhile is the interview competition. One commonly used pageant question is, "What would you do if you won the lottery?" Questions like these do nothing to show the intelligence of the competitor, which is the intended goal. If beauty pageants are going to serve some purpose, more thought provoking questions should be asked, which would allow for less focus on beauty and more on being a well-rounded person.

A common argument for beauty pageants is that "they choose to participate in these competitions", but the warped values of pageants affect much more than the competitors. The whole premise of beauty pageants dehumanizes women, making them merely objects as opposed to human beings. The fact that any woman is judged based on, let's be honest, their looks, is wrong.

Beauty pageants are almost exclusively female, which is another problem in and of itself. If these pageants were co-ed, it would at least show that we are objectifying human beings in general, not just women. The fact the overwhelming majority of pageants are female exclusively shows how our society inherently objectifies females over males.

Female beauty pageants have become a staple to human culture, as evidenced by the annual Miss Universe Pageant. These huge pageants used to stand for beauty, education and knowledge, but since the early 20th century, those values have taken a backseat to pure looks.

Fundamentally, beauty pageants can be good. They were originally intended to be used to promote positive qualities in women beyond their beauty such as insightfulness and thoughtfulness. Beauty pageants used to be an opponent of ignorance and supporters of feminism. Now, these pageants stand for one thing and one thing only: objectifying and over-sexualizing women.



Photo courtesy of Paul Chin, Wikipedia

Pageants objectify women rather than promoting less superficial standards of beauty.

the T RNIP

Berkley's finest news source

Global warming proven a hoax

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

BREAKING NEWS: Global warming has been proven to be a hoax. According to a recent discovery by renounced environmental scientist, Guy Realperson, it was cold outside his house on Sunday morning. Before this shocking discovery, Realperson's day started like any other. He woke up, slipped on his 'impeach Obama' slippers and matching shirt, and walked downstairs to watch his favorite morning program, *Fox and Friends*. He then went to grab the Sunday paper, but on the way, he made the shocking discovery. As he stepped outside, he began to shiver. 'How is this possible?' he wondered. He then sprinted to his computer and checked yesterday's weather. Yesterday, it was 43 degrees Fahrenheit, and today, it was 40 degrees Fahrenheit, proving his suspicion that global warming is a hoax to be true.

Realperson immediately called FOX news legend Bill O'Reilly and shared the daunting discovery. Before O'Reilly broke the news, he, as the credible and devoted journalist he is, checked Realperson's credibility. Realperson graduated Clown College class of '85, majoring in seltzer spray, which was enough for O'Reilly to break the news worldwide. Many critics of Realperson have denounced the new discovery. After being asked about Realperson's discovery, President Obama said, "This story is dumber than Biden, and that's saying something!"



Realperson still denies global warming, even after his tropical vacation to the Ice Caps.

Photos by Annie Silver and courtesy of Freausiestoca

Supporters of Realperson have cited last year's Polar Vortex and this year's Juno storm, which shut down New England for days because of heavy snowfall, as proof. Creator of the Global Warming hoax, Al Gore said, "Well, actually, the global warming theory states that the weather will fluctuate more, becoming more extreme. Along with hotter summers, global warming brings winter temperatures down and increases the likelihood of extreme weather, such as extreme cold and snow."

In a recent press conference, Realperson replied to Gore's comments, saying, "Oh... I didn't know that... well, my research [of stepping outside two days in a row] doesn't lie. Global warming is the biggest hoax ever pulled on the American people." Realperson is also expected to sue Gore for perjury, as soon as he can get his hands on a dictionary.

Americans have had mixed reactions to Realperson's findings; an old white man who was wearing protective tinfoil headgear said, "These new findings are a long time coming, and I've never believed in global warming; I don't drink tap water either— that's how they control our minds!"

Clearly, this new discovery will bring global warming back into the spotlight, putting things like gay marriage, gun regulations and women's/civil rights in the backseat, where, to FOX and Realperson, they belong.

The few, the proud, the Secret Service

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

Since its beginnings, the Secret Service has been destined for greatness, or something of that nature. Their most recent run in with the forces of evil overreaction a surveillance drone crashed on the White House front lawn. It seems that simple tasks, like not allowing a person to scale the White House fence and go into the mansion, would not be too difficult, but after many incidents like this, one cannot help but ask the question, "What are these heroes actually doing?"

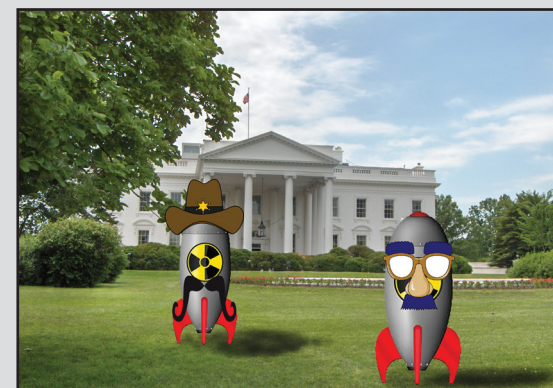
In order to answer that, imagine being in Washington D.C., on April 14, 1865. This date will live in infamy; it was the day that President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. On the bright side, this was not the only significant thing to happen on that date. A wonderful bill was sitting on the president's desk, a bill that would lead to the creation of America's elite safety squad, the Secret Service. Since then, the Secret Service has accomplished a few things, such as never having a traitor among the ranks and being the branch that spawned the FBI. With these awesome feats under their belt, their future looked bright.

Fast forward to present times, and one will see that the Secret Service is doing a stand-up job protecting the president. They apprehended a criminal on the White House property who was armed with only a knife. "It was cool to protect the president, but boy was that guy fast!" an anonymous member of the the Secret Service said. "It's a good thing we got him before he got in the front door!" He added, "If he got to the president, that would have been not very cool."

This was not the only "whoopsie" (as the agent put it) that happened this year. "A while ago, I was just chilling with some buds outside the White House, and some dude just started shooting at it. That was real sketchy because we were just hanging out, playing

some Bloons Tower Defense, and this dude just flipped, bro!" This first-hand account of the events seems a bit suspicious, but what happened next may change ones mind. When asked about what he did after the shots stopped, the agent said, "We just kept on playing. Level 99 is no joke, fam! People are on my back, saying 'You should have chased him, or asked the President if he was ok!,' but these people don't know what they are talking about. That is not my job."

After this interview with the best and brightest of the Secret Service, one can only wonder, "Why even try to assassinate the president with these masterminds protecting him?" The nation is calling for improvement in the nation's security, but that may be tough. These elite Americans will work until there are no threats to take out the president, whether the threat be some balloons or a terrorist, the Secret Service will be there to put a halt to their devious plans.



Americans can rest assured that no potential threat will ever reach the president, thanks to the Secret Service.

Photos courtesy of Nminow, Wikimedia Commons, edited by Jake Kreinbring

All lives matter

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

There has been much talk recently about the events in Paris surrounding the satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*. This event involved the murder of 12 journalists by Muslim extremists who were insulted after a controversial cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad was placed on the cover of the magazine. There are ongoing investigations concerning the people behind these brutal attacks as well as civilian marches in the name of humanity and the freedom of press. During these tragic events, there has been no shortage of news coverage documenting every detail that is known regarding this story.

On Jan. 7, the massacre of thousands of civilians took place by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, after they seized a military base in Baga, Nigeria. Not only were thousands of innocent civilians killed, but the damage done to their homes, hospitals, schools and other vital buildings was catastrophic, and almost completely wiped out the town altogether. Even though this event has the most civilian casualties and overall devastation, the news coverage has remained minimal.

If the average high schooler is anything like me and they watch a limited amount of news, they have probably never even heard about the events in Nigeria, or are at least unfamiliar with them. While the events of Paris are devastating and deserve all of the attention and support that they are receiving, why are the events in Nigeria and other African nations not as prevalent in our news?

One might remember Boko Haram from the kidnapping of 200 school girls in Chibok, Nigeria eight months ago. The news and public outrage spread rapidly, with #BringBackOurGirls trending on the Internet increasing awareness of the issue. Now months have gone by and the girls are still missing, but the public interest has dwindled as the world has become distracted with other issues. Negotiations with the group have slowed and the hopes of rescuing these girls has diminished internationally. However, in Nigeria's capital, families and supporters of the missing girls do everything they can to make their voices heard. The question is then, where are these girls and, almost as important, where is our concern about their whereabouts?

Thousands of people have been killed, and still there has been little action put into these issues when compared to the measures taken in places like France. Millions gathered in protest and even celebrities spoke out about the injustice that had occurred.



The destruction of the Boko Haram attack in Baga affected many buildings in the town.

Photo courtesy of Premium Times

The awareness and concern in Africa seems to have taken a back seat. Correspondent Simon Allison for *The Daily Maverick* explained, "It may be the 21st century, but African lives are still deemed less newsworthy – and, by implication, less valuable – than western lives." Not even one head of state or high ranking U.S. official went to Nigeria after the attacks of Jan. 7. The only explanation that I could think of was that the deaths of these people and the suppression of their values does not pose a threat to the diplomatic and economic interests of the United States and other first world countries.

This is one of the many examples of African problems not making the headlines until they pose a threat to our society. Remember Ebola? In October, when the mass hysteria of this horrible disease had reached its peak, nearly 5,000 people in Africa had already died. It was not until a U.S. citizen became infected and put the country at risk that we started to pay attention.

The news coverage surrounding these important events has been allocated unfairly, but it is not like news organizations do not have the time and resources. While the Baga attack received little attention, the Super Bowl had already been covered in depth throughout the country. Obviously, the Super Bowl is a huge deal in American culture and that is what people want to watch, but it seems unethical for a football game to take precedent over thousands of lives. Of course the news is covering what will receive the most attention, but that means there is something fundamentally wrong with our society.

The things that make news are out of the ordinary and engaging for people to watch. It seems as though the tragedies in Africa have become so common that they are no longer worth making the news. Stations have ratings to uphold and viewers to entertain, but this problem does not fall solely on their shoulders. As a society, we must face the fact that horrible things are happening, more frequently than we know, and instead of ignoring them, we have to care and do something to end it.

Africa may not have the political power that other places in the world hold, and they may not directly affect the interests of the United States, but people's lives matter regardless of their location. We established our nation as the police power of the world many years ago, and we need to take responsibility for the loss of lives internationally.

Without free press, there is no freedom

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

On Jan. 7, 2015, two gunmen killed 12 people at the offices of the French satirical weekly magazine *Charlie Hebdo* due to their inflammatory remarks made by the journalists about the Prophet Muhammad. The attackers believed they could scare *Charlie Hebdo* and everyone else into silence. Fortunately, they were very wrong. The response was nothing but an out-pouring of remorse for the slain journalists and cartoonists, and scorn for the cowardly attackers. *Charlie Hebdo* ran their next issue on schedule in six languages, including Arabic and English, with a print run of five million, more than they have ever done before. When freedom of the press is under attack, the best thing to do is keep the presses running.

Freedom of the press has done more for the world than many realize. Without the unabridged printing of whatever the media wishes, the United States would still be ignorant of National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance, Watergate and innumerable political scandals. Free press gives voice to those who are small fighting a much larger foe. It protects the establishment of a functional democracy. Free press serves as the gateway to every other right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and to protect its values which we hold dear.

Winston Churchill said, "A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that

free men prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny." The free press stands directly in the way of absolute government power. The Soviet Union recognized this and used the immense power of the media to sway opinion in their favor with the manipulation of the Pravda, a newspaper controlled by the communist leadership. The victims of the brutal ransom executions committed by ISIS are often journalists. A free press has the power to liberate and destroy. One that is not will restrict the rights of the many only to serve the needs of the few.

The response to the attempt of silencing *Charlie Hebdo* invokes the words of the French Enlightenment writer Voltaire: "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." It is important to remember all that the freedom of the press has done for the world and not let it slip out of the public view should it ever come under attack.



There is snow way you missed Snowcoming...

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

There are very little events that bring Berkley High School together as a community throughout the school year. There are, of course, football games in the fall, when everyone is rediscovering their school spirit after a long summer. And homecoming, where groups of friends gather at different houses taking pictures, capturing what will soon be just a memory. We all know that our time together is limited, so when there is an opportunity to celebrate our tightly knit community, we pounce on it.

What most recently brought our school together was the Snowcoming spirit week. Although the "unfortunate" snow days made spirit week two days shorter, the hallways of BHS rang with school pride. "Honestly, I just love seeing everyone excited and full of school spirit," junior Lauren Angel said. With that Monday and Tuesday off, we started off the school week on a Wednesday in our comfy, cozy pajamas. "[My favorite day was] pajama day because I [got] to look like a bum without being judged," Angel continued. On Thursday, our fleece pajamas turned into flannels, and 90s grunge was back for the day. The students of BHS came together to become one giant quilt of flannel. Last but not least, was the white out (no, not the correction fluid). Students took it upon themselves to go beyond wearing just a white shirt, and wore other attire such as white tutus, leggings, sweatbands and bandanas.

The week ended with nothing other than one of BHS's pep assemblies. Step Team had the ultimate pep in their step as they performed their impressive dance routine, and the guy-girl dance had all of us in awe with their raw talents. Encore! was able to somehow dance and sing at the same time and wowed everyone who was watching. Despite the music being cut off due to the time restraint, the Winter Guard left us speechless at their twirling skills. MCs Anna Ricci and Robbie Flannery did exactly what Student Leadership intended to do: get us pumped for the dance.

Saturday night, over 300 students came waltzing in to the Snowcoming masquerade, indistinguishable due to the hidden faces behind masks. Student Leadership did an amazing job of turning the usually boring cafeteria into an elegant room, complete with silver, edible center pieces full of pearly, white gum balls and sparkling rock candies. There were silver, fringed curtains that draped the window of the collaborative center. Lights were strung around railings, and a huge metallic snowflake hung from the ceiling in order to capture and reflect the night light. All of these worked together to transform the collaborative center into a winter wonderland.

To ensure that this would be a night to remember, for the first time there was a photobooth to capture the dance. "[My favorite part of the dance was] the photobooth because we got to take pictures with all of our friends, and take home something that will always remind us of that night," senior Megan Mulheron said. Mulheron continued, "Now I will always have something to remember my last Snowcoming with." Hundreds of kids were enjoying themselves on the dance floor, and had a blast at the dance. While the week came and went very quickly, it did a remarkable job of bringing our little community together and giving us all a week to remember.



Winter Guard

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

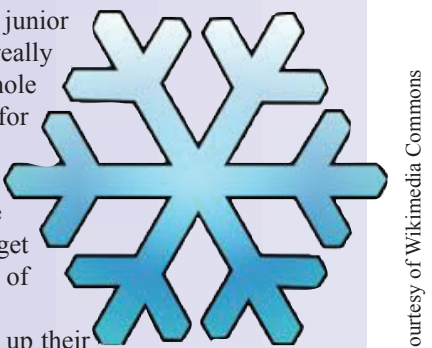
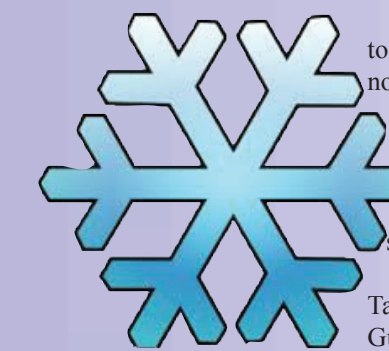
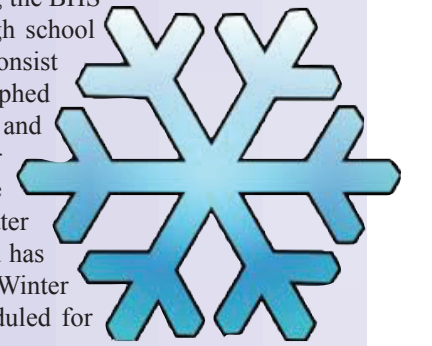
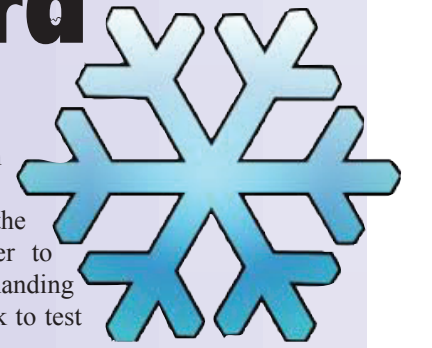
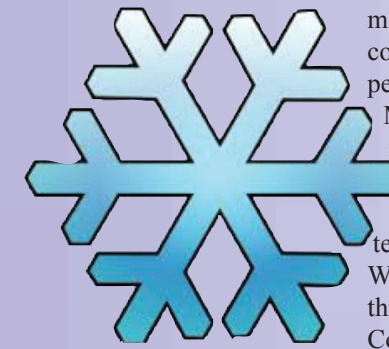
Though the Berkley High School football season may have already ended, the Color Guard team still continues to perform into the winter months as the performance team, Winter Guard. From November to March, the Winter Guard is hard at work with demanding rehearsals and intricate performances that will work to test their talents and prove their skills.

The 12 female ensemble that makes up the Winter Guard team consists of two captains, senior Erin Gilson and junior Ava Wirth. During their season, the Winter Guard will compete in three major competitions that are conducted by the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC). At each of these events, the BHS Winter Guard team will perform alongside other high school teams from all over the state. Usually, their routines consist of a mash-up of music, accompanied by choreographed dance and the synchronized spinning of flags and potentially, sabers. If successful, the BHS Winter Guard team will have the chance to participate in the state finals, which are set to take place sometime later in March. This year, however, the BHS Winter Guard has been given the unique opportunity to partake in the Winter Guard International (WGI) regionals, which is scheduled for Feb. 14 in Walled Lake.

For the BHS Winter Guard team, this is an amazing chance to be able to show their talents as a group of skilled performers not only to other high school Winter Guard teams in the state of Michigan, but also to those from all over the nation and even those from around the world. The Winter Guard team has been practicing every Tuesday and Thursday evenings to ensure that their performance at the WGI regionals is spot-on and goes smoothly, in hopes to see success.

Senior and fellow Winter Guard team member, Samantha Taub encourages those interested in joining the BHS Winter Guard team for the 2015-16 school year to talk to junior captain, Wirth. "Our team is so close and we're also really welcoming, so when you sign up you will get this whole new network of friends that are going to be there for you through anything," Taub said. She recommends however, that before the Winter Guard auditions, that are currently set for the next school year sometime in November, to work on your core strength and get comfortable with the act of performing in a variety of competitions and major performances.

Hopefully, the BHS Winter Guard team will finish up their season with great success at the WGI regionals and continue to make the BHS community proud.



14 THE SPECTATOR

A gr8 guide 2 txtng

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

Back when our parents were kids they didn't have smart phones or social media, and this meant the use of a majority of acronyms was unnecessary. There was probably not even the occasional brb or gtg, and that cannot even compare to the extreme use of abbreviations we have today. As our parents try and stay hip in this era, they attempt to use our acronyms, but their efforts backfire, and they use them hilariously wrong.

OMW

Parent Meaning: Oh My Word

Actual Meaning: On My Way. Parents commonly confuse OMW with Oh My Word. It is mainly used when someone is in the car and on the way to pick up friends. Parents would use it as a synonym to omg, and would say something like "OMW I can't believe it." **Our translation:** On my way I can't believe it.

K

Parent Meaning: Okay.

Actual Meaning: You are annoying, and I am beyond done with this conversation. K is the ultimate insult. K does mean okay, but parents never use it in the right context. For a better alternative use kk, ok or okay! Usually, they would say something along the lines of "K. Sounds good." **Our translation:** It sounds good, now leave me alone I'm done with this conversation.

TBH

Parent Meeting: To Be Hungry

Actual Meaning: To Be Honest. A TBH is a short way of saying one person's honest opinion of an individual. People use TBH when texting or they will use them on various social media sites. Parents commonly confuse this with to be hungry. For example, one parent might ask, "Are you going TBH?" **Our translation:** Are you going to be honest?

LOL

Parent Meaning: Lots Of Love.

Actual Meaning: Laughing Out Loud. LOL is one of the most used acronyms, and has been around for awhile now. Note: people don't actually laugh out loud when they use LOL. Parents could use it awkwardly when something catastrophic happens, mistaking it for lots of love. For example, "your grandmother died LOL." **Our translation:** Your grandmother died laughing out loud.

Now with this newfound knowledge of teen 'slang,' I hope parents read this so as to spare them the embarrassment and misuse of common texting acronyms. Even though their hilarious efforts will not go unnoticed, let's just use them correctly to save everyone from any awkwardness. K?

Michigan Congress chooses the SAT

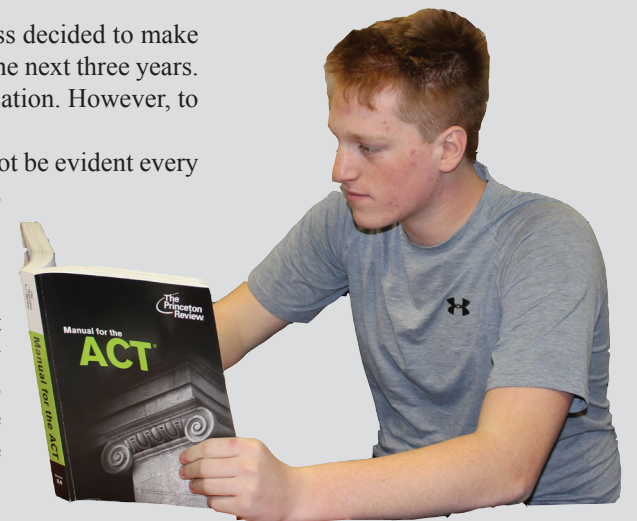
Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

Starting next March, Michigan juniors will be taking the SAT instead of the ACT. The state of Michigan Congress decided to make the change to the SAT in large part because they received a better bid. The state will pay about \$15 million less over the next three years. The SAT's bid was supported by Republicans, because to them saving tax dollars holds higher importance than education. However, to current students and staff members, the new plan is a highly controversial one.

The Berkley School District's curriculum is currently geared to prepare students for the ACT. Although this may not be evident every day in the classroom, over the years students have become used to a certain type of impromptu style writing that is only tested on the ACT. Even though the elements of the English curriculum that are for the ACT will quickly be phased out, high school and older middle school students that would have been taking the ACT in the next few years are already used to the ACT form of writing.

At the same time, the new policy has lit a fire under Michigan Democrats, questioning whether the current government values education enough. The important choice to change what test students must take was made mostly to save money, it had very little to do with what test is truly better for students. Sophomore Talia Gadd feels this frustration as well. Gadd said, "The situation is annoying; everything is always changed for our grade." The change also seems to be inefficient because many students still plan on focusing on studying for the ACT, and only taking the SAT because they are required to.

Although the educational culture will quickly change, students are currently used to the ACT and are more familiar with the format of that standardized test, having already taken the PLAN (an ACT practice test for tenth graders). In the long run Congress' decision will save money, but in the short run it may not be the best decision for the students it will affect the most.



Sophomore Conner Michaelson studies the ACT as he has always done until now.

Photo by Jake Kreinbring

UBER: THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE RIDES

Zoe Blake '17, Assistant Photo Editor

When you think of a taxi, you probably think of a classic New York style cab with a silent driver taking you to your destination. Yet, Uber, an alternative form of a taxi service, uses the driver's personal car. The personalities can also vary from one driver to another.

I have ridden in a variety of Uber cars in my day, and the following are a few unique experiences that I have had, so whether you have never taken an Uber or take one weekly, enjoy my tales from this new taxi service.

AN UBER RIDE WITH LUCKY

This was my very first Uber ride. I requested my car, and when a golden 2003 Ford Free Star arrived, my friends and I hopped in. When we got in, I had an eerie feeling. The Uber driver was silent and had a doll sitting in the passenger seat that he called "Lucky." The doll was a pink inflatable replica of the character "Giggles" from the YouTube web series, *Happy Tree Friends*. When he introduced Lucky, it got even more strange. I became very uneasy, and began to track where we were going on my phone. Then, all of a sudden, the Uber driver broke the awkward silence and asked if we wanted to stop for food. I had a complete panic attack internally. All I kept thinking was 'No, we can't go. We will get killed if we go.' And, of course, my friend spoke up and said, "Yes! I'm starving!" I gave her a look. He said he felt like Del Taco, so we went there. At this point, I had gone from tracking our location to having 911 on speed dial. We pulled through the drive-through, and the driver ordered three churros. He gave us two and kept one for himself. I thought that this would be my last meal. I went back on to track us and found that we were actually on route. I began to feel a lot better, especially when we rolled up to our destination.

AN UBER RIDE WHEN I LIED

One evening, a few friends and I had dinner at National Coney Island in Royal Oak. Stuck with no ride home from a parent or sibling, I got us an Uber. There were four of us and he had a Ford Focus, so we did nose-goes to decide who would ride shotgun. Naturally, I lost and sat in the front, ostracized by my friend's laughter and jokes. Our driver started to make some small talk. Then, all of a sudden, my friends in the back decided that it would be funny to change our identities. They said that we all attended Southfield Lathrup High School. I became so mixed up and could barely remember my fake name, "Julie." My friend would always ask me things, and I was not used to responding to "Julie," but that was not even the worst part. He had kids that went to Southfield Lathrup. He started making all of these references that we had no clue about. He asked us our favorite teacher and a bunch of other stuff. I tried to play it cool and told him I liked Mr. Smith and Ms. Armstrong. It was extremely stressful. I am pretty sure he could tell we were lying. He took us home and said goodbye to each of us, using our fake names. Needless to say, it was different from my other Uber rides.

AN UBER RIDE WHEN I GOT MY FIRST BUSINESS CARD

My friend and I were having a serious late night craving for McDonalds. Not wanting to walk, we called an Uber. At this point I had ridden in at least four or five Ubers, which made me more comfortable about getting into a stranger's car. We got in, and it was an older man who loved conversations...almost too much. He talked about where he went to high school, and college, and he told me of his love for the fraternity that he was a part of in college. Then I made the biggest mistake of my life: I asked him what he majored in. He told me that he was an accounting major. I knew that this car ride would be long, and this guy already loved to talk. Now the subject had switched to (in my opinion) the worst subject on the entire face of the earth: math. If you know me personally, you know that math is not my forte. We spent the rest of the car ride talking about being a CPA (certified public accountant). He even offered to have me tour his practice and said that I could possibly get an internship over the summer. I did not have the heart to tell him that I hated math, so I kept on pretending that I was some sort of math prodigy. He even incorporated our McDonald's run into an accounting lesson. I was completely lost. Was he a bookkeeper like Skylar from *Breaking Bad*? I still have no idea. As we got home, he handed me his business card and told me that I would do great things in life. I felt empowered, mathematically empowered.

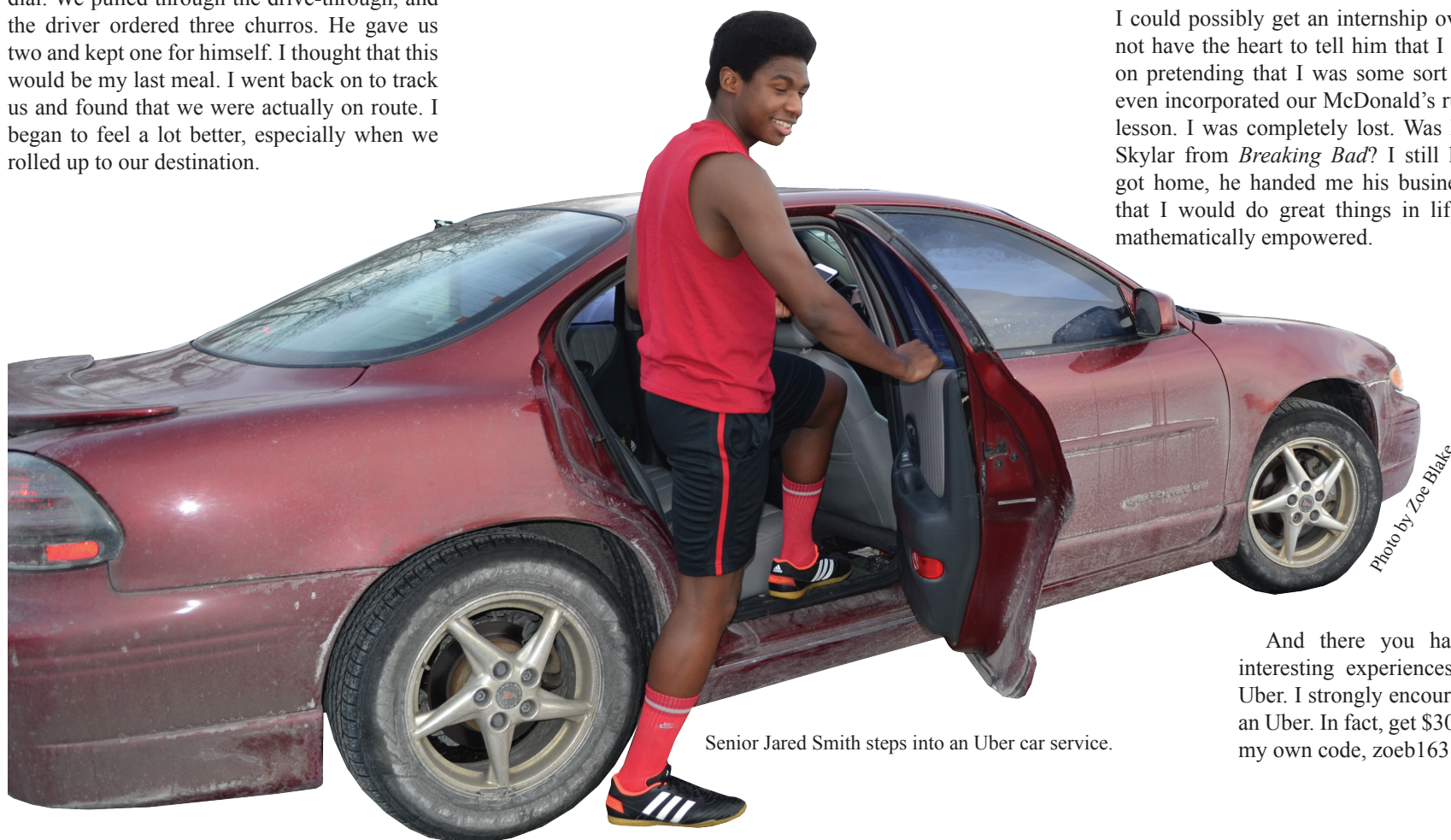


Photo by Zoe Blake

Senior Jared Smith steps into an Uber car service.

And there you have it, the three most interesting experiences I've had while using Uber. I strongly encourage you to take a trip in an Uber. In fact, get \$30 off your first ride using my own code, zoeb163.

The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of February

Coffee

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

Sit down: coffee. Stand up: coffee. Wake up: coffee. Coffee (coh-fee): a drink made from the roasted and ground bean-like seeds of a tropical shrub that can be served hot or iced. Sometimes referred to as Joe or java, coffee is the one steady thing in our lives that will never let us down.

Government and Economics teacher Mr. Ira Goldberg said, "Coffee is a central part of my life; I do not think I would be able to function without it." He just gets it.

A doctor living in the Berkley School District (meaning me) has discovered that coffee makes people happy, specifically myself, and probably millions, if not billions, of other caffeine crazed humans. Drinking coffee everyday has led to me to a place of motivation and non-irritation, and I highly recommend trying it, as it will have a huge effect on your life.

Quidditch

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

The world was first introduced to Quidditch by the famous Harry Potter series. Since 2005, the fictional sport has been interpreted and repurposed by the muggle world, particularly on college campuses. Based on the creators', Alex Benepe and Xander Manshel, nerdy passion for Quidditch, these Brits were able to create a club team at Middlebury, and form the International Quidditch Association. This full contact sport stays true to the basic rules established in the Harry Potter series. However, instead of flying wizards on Nimbus 2000s on a true Quidditch pitch, these are mere muggles running around with brooms between their legs on a football field. In order to join an official team one must purchase membership yearly or start a team of your own. If you drank the Amortentia love potion, your infatuation with wizardry and the world of Harry Potter is strong and this would definitely be the extracurricular for you.

The Pistons

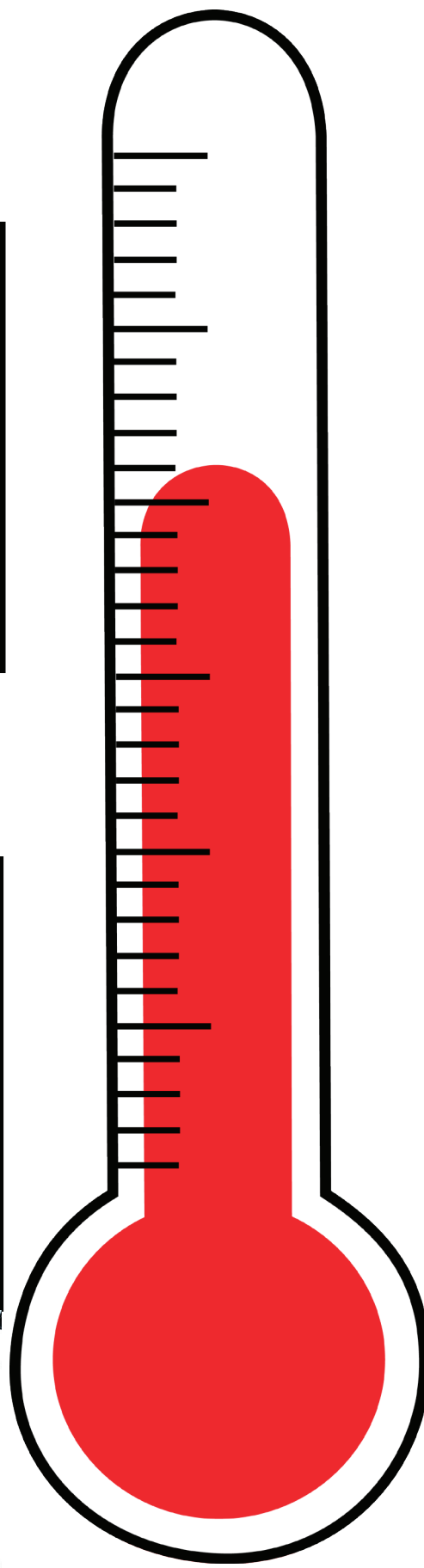
Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

Those who read the January issue of *The Spectator* should recall an article describing the recent success of the Detroit Pistons. Unfortunately, it looks like the winning streak is over, and the remainder of their NBA season will be a downhill ride due to the recent loss of a dominant player. The injury of scoring machine and starting point guard Brandon Jennings has brought the franchise from a rising team in the Eastern conference, to a team that loses to one of the worst teams in the league, the Philadelphia 76ers. Jennings successfully underwent his surgery for his torn Achilles and is on the bench supporting his teammates as he awaits his return to the court next year. The Pistons' recent stretch of losses is quite the opposite of what the city expected after the exciting winning streak following the release of forward Josh Smith.

Social media

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

Refresh... Nope, still nothing new. After almost two years of using the same social media apps, a new fad has failed to make its mark on teens' every day lives. When there is finally something new and cool it normally dissipates within a week. However, there are some that make it through the, shall we say, "testing period." Sadly, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat are the only social media apps that have a lasting influence in our daily lives. There have been recent attempts to break the barrier and become relevant, like with Swipe, but all have failed. Because of this, using the same social media apps everyday can become extremely boring. We need something new, exciting and life altering, and we need it now. Preferably, it would appease everyone with a little bit of everything: pictures, music and statuses. A modernized app will be good for the social media scene and will add a little more diversity to our daily lives.



SCANDAL: a look into the dirty D.C.

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

For generations, politicians and Hollywood celebrities have been figures in the spotlight for both positive and negative reasons. Although they are both in the limelight and are technically both famous, they contrast greatly career wise in the professional world. One lives to entertain while the other lives to make change in the nation. However, even though their jobs contrast, their scandals have somewhat similar characteristics and cause one to question whether they deserve to be there. Politicians are supposed to be role models, figures everyone can look up to and be confident that they are helping to govern our great nation. Somehow, however, it seems as if politicians have learned a few tips from celebrities when it comes to sex scandals. A “Hollywood” is a sex scandal that can or has been portrayed by a fictional character on TV. Here are just a few of the politicians who could be in Hollywood instead of D.C.

Anthony Weiner

A prime example of a politician’s scandal that had a Hollywood-like quality to it was none other than former member of The House of Representatives, Anthony Weiner’s. Weiner was basically the original ‘Fappening’ (which is when all of the celebrity nudes were leaked online) except for the fact that it was self-inflicted. In May of 2011, he sent suggestive photos of himself to a woman following him on Twitter. He, like Clinton, attempted to deny the scandal, saying that it was not him. However, after several days of denial, Weiner released a press statement that admitted he “exchanged messages and photos of an explicit nature with about six women over the last three years.” Wow. Six women! Unfortunately, the scandal did not end there. Weiner was accused of having sent pictures to a 22-year-old woman in June of 2013 under the alias of “Carlos Danger” Clever. Sexting scandals are nothing new to Hollywood as history tells, as A-list celebrities from Tiger Woods to Jesse James have too fallen “victim” to the world of sexts.

Bill Clinton

The classics are always the best examples, and what is more classically taudry than the Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky sex scandal? Nothing. The words, “I did not have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky,” said by Clinton, have amazingly resonated through two generations and are still well known today. This probably has something to do with the fact that Lewinsky (being the original Olivia Pope) has been mentioned by almost every R & B artist to date. If the fact that the President of the United States had an affair with a White House intern is not Hollywood enough, the fact that he denied it and did his best to use words such as “sexual relations” to avoid actually admitting to anything proves it to be. This original affair that sparked interest and entertainment in millions of American lives as everyone watched as one of the most beloved presidents was impeached seemed as if it was something out of an ABC soap opera.



Monica Lewinsky, famous for her scandal with Bill Clinton, has tried for years to leave it all behind her.

So, you be the judge. Is it just me or do more sex scandals happen on the White House Oval Office than on the red carpet? Nevertheless, it is both ridiculous, as well as greatly entertaining to see the resemblance between politicians and celebrities scandals. It is as if one cannot help but hope for change in the bad behavior in the U.S. government, but also pray for some more to watch at the same time. What a scandal.

Where to get the fleekiest eyebrows



Zoe Blake '17, Assistant Photo Editor

Ever since early 2014, eyebrows have been a very hot topic among teens, social media and beauty gurus. Whenever one logs on to Twitter and goes to an account like @tbhjuststop or @commonwhitegirl, they are guaranteed to see at least one tweet about “eyebrow goals.”

Eyebrow goals, a common term in pop culture, are literally just that: goals for one’s eyebrows. The typical eyebrow goal as of right now is a thick but shaped brow, resembling a mutated Nike sign. Many girls (and even some guys) have become insecure about their brows, but fear not, *The Spectator* is here to help with a list of some great places to get one’s eyebrows done at and why.



About Face

Pricing: \$12+

Client Opinion: “About Face is fantastic! They have very talented staff; [it’s] such a great atmosphere,” senior Evangeline House said.



Detroit Makeup Company

\$12+

“I absolutely love them! The employees who work there are so welcoming! They also know exactly what they are doing and take their job very seriously,” sophomore Chloe Lister said.



Benefit Brow Bar (Ulta)

\$12+

“I love going to ulta for my brows. They are so nice there. Everytime I get them done there is some fun conversation during it,” sophomore Danielle Steinik said.



The window of About Face welcomes customers.

18 THE SPECTATOR

Rapper unwraps 50th birthday presents

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor and Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

A lot can be accomplished by the time someone turns 50 years old. It goes without saying that Andre Young, better known as Dr. Dre, has taken full advantage of his time here on Earth.

On Feb. 18, Dr. Dre will be celebrating his 50th birthday, officially marking him as one of the most celebrated faces of Hip Hop. Dr. Dre was born in 1965 in Compton, California, where he went to school until he transferred to a high school in Los Angeles, and later focused on making a career in music.

His extensive career began at the age of 20 at a club named 'The Eve After Dark.' He spent his time there as a DJ along with other up and coming artists. During this time, he and fellow performer Antoine Carraby created a group named World Class Wreckin' Cru, which was later expanded into N.W.A. and became wildly popular. Eventually, Dre left due to a feud with fellow group member Eazy-E. However, this move would prove to pay dividends when his first solo album, *The Chronic*, hit the streets. This triple platinum album successfully rebranded west coast sound while influencing other artists like Snoop Dogg.

Many artists owe their careers to Dr. Dre. He has worked to help many musicians produce numerous tracks and albums. Dr. Dre has been producing professionally since 1991, when he was still a part of N.W.A. "Dr. Dre is the reason why so many artists have long lasting and successful careers," junior Sarah Shartsis said. He went on to help construct many debut albums like *DoggyStyle* by Snoop Dogg, *The Slim Shady LP* by

Eminem, *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* by 50 Cent and *Good Kid, m.A.A.d. City* by Kendrick Lamar.

Dr. Dre's musical talent has earned him 21 nominations and six wins for various Grammy Awards. Three of his Grammy awards are for producing, one of which is for "Producer of the Year" in 2001. He has also won three more for his hip-hop/rap talents, including "Best Rap Solo Performance" in 1994 and "Best Rap Album (Producer)" in 2010.

In addition to music, Dr. Dre is also well known for his very own brand of headphones called Beats by Dre. He first released the line in 2008, and over the years, their popularity has skyrocketed. "Wearing his headphones makes listening to music more enjoyable. The sound is extremely crisp and you can tell it is a quality product," junior Jalen Duley said. As the company grew, speakers and other audio software were added to their list of products. In 2014, Apple bought Beats for \$3 billion. This action made Dr. Dre the richest man in the rap industry.

Dr. Dre has built a strong reputation for himself and others. In fact, his part in making other rappers famous and his musical contributions may make him the single biggest influence in rap to date. Even his entrepreneurial endeavors have changed how we listen to rap. Since the start of his career, he has done more than most people will in their entire lifetime. Happy 50th birthday, Dr. Dre, and good luck on the rest of your career.



Same Earth, new 'green' inventions

Miles Berlin '18, Co Business and Ad Manager

Due to the current concern involving fossil fuels and non-renewable energy, companies are attempting to create innovative technology to change the way people use energy. Wind and hydroelectric power are two huge contenders in this new push to save non-renewable resources and keep the Earth clean.

BMW is one of the leading car companies in the world, and as of recently, they have released a new electric car called the i3. Last year, they released the i8, the first of the electric series. The i3 will not be as expensive as the i8, but it will still remain in the luxury price range. The i3 is made in a factory powered completely by wind turbines, which means the whole making of and driving of the car is done without a single drop of gasoline, or the use of fossil fuels.

Airplanes have the ability to take people all over the world, which is an extraordinary feat of technology, but these amazing machines require a ton of gasoline. A company called Solar Impulse is releasing an airplane that has the potential to alter the airline industry completely. They are coming out with an airplane that runs purely on solar power. The plane is small and composed of a carbon fiber to make it lightweight and more efficient. The wings of the plane add up to 72 meters, longer than a large commercial airplane, making them some of the longest plane wings globally. The wings are covered with solar panels that transfer energy to the plane, so the bigger the wings, the more solar panels on the plane. There is also a battery on the bottom of the plane that can be used for nighttime and cloudy weather. The plane is expected to take off from the United Arab Emirates anywhere from late February to early March. It is expected to finish its trip in July or August, back

in the United Arab Emirates. On its journey, the plane and its two pilots will make stops in Europe, India, Africa, the United States and China, among others. If this flight proves successful, it could change the way commercial flights and other planes are built.

Another groundbreaking advancement is algae biofuel. Because of the fast growth rate of algae, if scientists could perfect this fuel, people would have a near infinite supply. The way that one can use algae as a fuel is actually very simple. Inside of the algae cell, there is a large amount of oil. To release all of the oil from the plant, the plant is crushed, causing the cell wall to break and let the oil out. This could provide clean, natural and fast energy. Another positive side to the water plant is that it can be engineered to grow completely without sunlight. Josh Tickell, creator of the "algaeous mobile" uses only algae to power his new car. The "algaeous mobile" was test driven in New York for a few months and got about 147 miles per gallon of algae made fuel.

With all of the technological advancements, we have been able to create many eco-friendly replacements for everyday items that pollute the Earth. "To truly transform our economy and save our world from the ravages of climate change, we need to make clean, renewable energy," President Barack Obama said. In his presidency who has gotten over two billion dollars for private clean energy companies. When these inventions are readily available to the public, they will make the fantasy of a green Earth, actually possible. These inventions have the potential to save the Earth, and as the world gets smarter, we will try and do just that.

Special dating websites for special people

Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

There are many lonely people all across America looking for love. About 41,250,000 people in the U.S. have tried online dating, yet only 20 percent of committed relationships start from an online dating site. The reason that many people are alone in this world must be the actual dating site itself— after all, almost anyone could join match.com. It is time for the lonely people to explore dating sites that directly relate to their interests and luckily, there are plenty specific dating sites out there.

Darwin Dating

There are many singles that are tired of meeting “ugly” people on any ordinary dating website; they can stop looking now because **Darwin Dating** is a dating website for only the beautiful people. “How do I know if I’m hot enough to be on the website?”, one might ask. It is a simple system. One could simply go on the website without an account and vote how hot someone looks from a scale of one to five. The site contains singles who are not at all shallow or vain, and anybody who thinks that are probably just jealous.

Purrsonals

For all of those sweet, lovable, and sometimes elderly, people who live all alone— except for their 20 cats, **Purrsonals** is the purrfect place to meet their cat loving other half. For lonely cat lovers out there who may be hesitant to join, the website is totally free. The site was purposely made to be easy to use for the not-so-tech savvy people. This website also comes with a free e-book on cats if one joins immediately. There are also regular cat news updates on the website, too. Who knew?

Farmersonly

FarmersOnly.com is the classiest of all country folk dating websites. Many students at BHS, such as freshman Abbey Herrington, have seen their “cheesy, low quality and not very well thought out” commercial with cows that can speak. However, their television advertisements have progressed into better ones. Their motto “for farmers, ranchers and good ol’ country folk” clearly describes the type of person that would enjoy and get use out of this website. The website now has advertisements on every corner of the Internet and is spreading in popularity like wild fire. This website has given hope for all the lonely country folks out there in America.

Mullet Passions

For those who cannot shake the 70s fever, companionship has just become an option. **Mullet Passions** is a website that people who can still rock the mullet can meet up with each other and reminisce about the days when mullets were remotely popular. Designed specifically for 55-year-olds that simply cannot let the past go, **Mullet Passions** is, while oddly specific, a dating website that may help 70s biker moms find romance. Nothing has ever been more necessary.

With this new knowledge of dating sites, everyone in America has a better chance at finding love now. There are more and more dating sites coming out monthly, with more specific and different requirements. Now, whether one has a mullet or an odd obsession with cats, there is someone out there for everyone. Nobody, even the little farming people in Kansas, should be alone for eternity.

The crash of Skymall

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

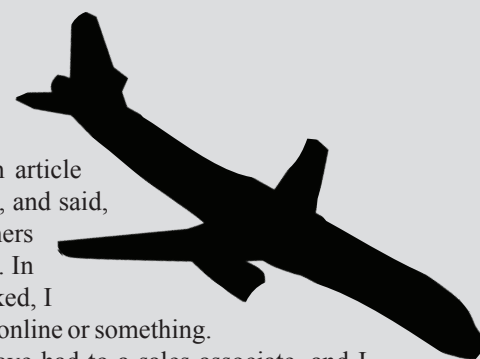
SkyMall, the inflight magazine has been in 88 percent of all airplane seat backs, and has been satisfying passengers with silly or miscellaneous goods for the past 25 years. On Jan. 22, the company that previously impressed passengers has taken a turn for the worst, filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

In the past, passengers would browse the inflight catalogue, finding odd goods such as a wine cabinet that turns into a 16th century Italian Globe or a stone garden Yeti. Recently, however, smartphones have stolen the public’s attention. Now, the Internet can be accessed for almost the whole duration of the flight, and passengers would much rather pass the time by looking at things that fully interest them rather than wacky products. “SkyMall is just pointless to look at,” junior Joe Hunter said. He continued, “I think most of the public would rather listen to music, peruse the internet or read a good book.” SkyMall Chief Financial Officer Scott Wiley said in court, “With the increased use of electronic devices on planes, fewer people browsed the SkyMall in-flight catalog.” Skymall’s competitors are now Ebay and Amazon due to greater resources and materials. “The direct marketing retail industry is crowded, rapidly evolving and intensely competitive,” Wiley said. The process of getting rid of SkyMall is already in progress. “Though I think that SkyMall needs an update; it is still entertaining to look at. A flying without the odd catalog just does not seem right,” freshman Sean Mullane said. On Jan. 25, Delta and Southwest airlines have ceased to carry SkyMall.

The recent setbacks have occurred due to issues within Xhibit, the company backing the failing catalog and the public being uncertain and uniformed about ordering the products that are offered. Jeff Friedrich, a former flight attendant who now writes for

the website Slate, gave his insight in an article regarding the recent issues with SkyMall, and said, “No one ever told me how to help customers who wanted to make a SkyMall purchase. In the rare instance in which a passenger asked, I said something like I think you need to go online or something. I was the closest thing SkyMall could have had to a sales associate, and I knew nothing about the company.” There is no communication between the company and flight attendants, so one might assume that is the crux of the problems. In 2013, 66 percent of SkyMall’s consolidated revenue was acquired from its “loyalty business,” from partners such as Caesar’s Entertainment, Capital One and Marriott Rewards. The company has not been making much money from the catalog in recent years. Xhibit also does not have the greatest reputation when dealing with finances. In September of 2014, it sold the loyalty business for reasons that are unobtainable at this time and the company used the money to pay their own debt off from past failures.

At this time, SkyMall’s future is uncertain. Few people have pondered about saving the crashing catalog, but entrepreneur Scott Jordan stepped up to the challenge. Jordan is a past Shark Tank contestant and most of his products have been featured in SkyMall, overall fueling his passion toward saving the company. Scott will look to transform the company into a newer, more refreshed version of its former self and keep the catalog running for its 26th consecutive year.

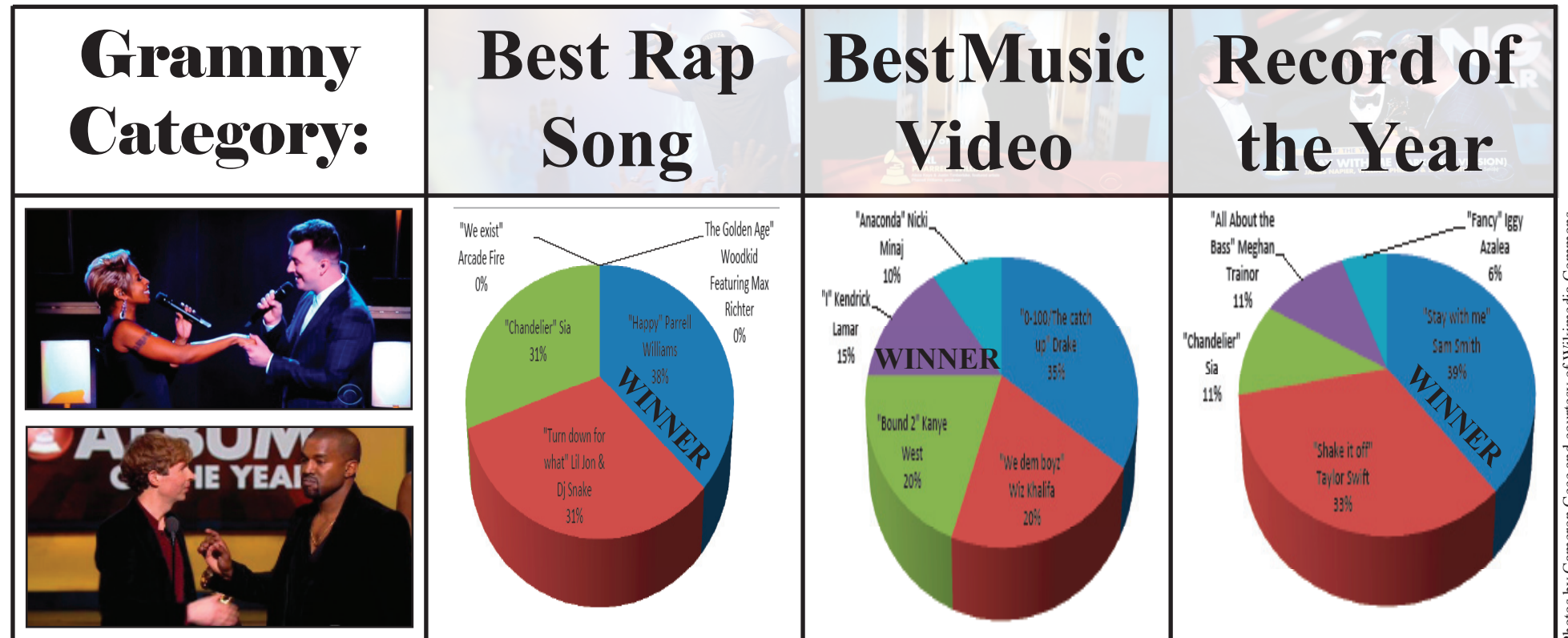


Grammy Awards: Who should have won?



Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

Twenty BHS students with varying grade levels were interviewed on who they thought should win a Grammy Award before the award show even aired on Feb. 8. Some strongly disagree with the winning results, so below is the general BHS student body opinion on who should have won compared to the actual Grammy results to see if BHS was spot on with their favorites.



Photos by Cameron Cece and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Many Americans were impressed by the fact that there were no undeserved wins. There were also a lot of great performances in the show. Overall, the BHS student body was right about their predictions on the Grammy winners. The show was fascinating and was pulled off almost flawlessly.

THE WALKING DEAD rises again

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Spoiler Alert The mid-season finale of season five of *The Walking Dead* left many questions unanswered and many Dead Heads worldwide at an utter loss for words. The first portion of the two segments of season five ended on a very dramatic and plot-altering note. After a short return, Beth died an untimely and unavoidable death by ending the life of the leader Officer Dawn who kept her as a servant in the hospital. This heartbreaking scene caused many questions to arise amongst viewers. Beth's character had so much potential and effect on the show, so why did they kill her off? This could have been easily avoided, and she was just set free, so why did she risk her life? What is going to be the group's next move? How is Noah, the boy she gave her life for, going to deal with her death? Well, folks, the wait is over. On Sunday, Feb. 8, season five of *The Walking Dead* finally made its return, and the apocalyptic thriller did not disappoint.

The premiere of season five's return was one of the most suspenseful and mind-blowing thus far. In the aftermath of Beth's death, everyone is attempting to deal with their grief while continuing to fight to survive. The group's leader, Rick, promises to take Noah to Shirewilt Estates in Atlanta in honor of Beth. Sadly, it is not the safe haven they had hoped for. Instead, it is the now common ghost town that had been overrun by zombies, leaving no human life behind—Noah's family included. Talk about a buzz kill. The entire group is disheartened, but they attempt to make the most of the situation by gathering any useable supplies from the run down deserted suburb. In the process, Tyreese ends up being bitten not once, but twice. Of course the nicest main character gets infected right after Beth has just died. Not cool. The team finds him holding his newly

infected arm and makes a very rash decision: in one swift movement, they amputate his arm in an effort to stop the infection from spreading. Lucky for viewers, they showed the entire gory act. Gross. Their attempt to save him was futile and he dies due to extreme blood loss. Junior Erin Tripp said, "It's crazy that they killed off Tyreese. The producers are ruthless now, and I wonder who they are going to kill off next." Everyone works together to give him a proper burial out of remorse and respect. It was one of the most heartwarming and intense moments of the season by far, but more are bound to be on the way. Now the gang turns to their last chance for survival, Washington D.C.

The series never fails to excite and shock viewers across the nation. This time around they are causing mass chaos in the form of killing off multiple main characters in a short period of time. While some questions have now been answered, more have risen to the surface. Does the group still possess the strength and numbers needed to survive? Will they make it to Washington D.C.? Tune in every Sunday at 9:00 p.m on AMC and hopefully, aforementioned curiosities will be satiated.



Co-creator Robert Kirkman signs poster.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

New York shows its grit at the movies

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

In recent years, crime movies have been bogged down by cliché plots and an overabundance of meaningless action, but *A Most Violent Year* changes the game. The movie, released in late January, is a gripping story of an immigrant named Abel Morales, played skillfully by semi-newcomer Oscar Isaac. Writer and director J.C. Chandor breaks out with a truly unique film that is vastly different from his past two projects, Golden Globe nominated *All is Lost* and *Margin Call*. The plot centers on Morales, who is trying to keep his oil business afloat amidst many harsh, man-made conditions during the winter of 1981, which had one of the highest crime rates in New York history.

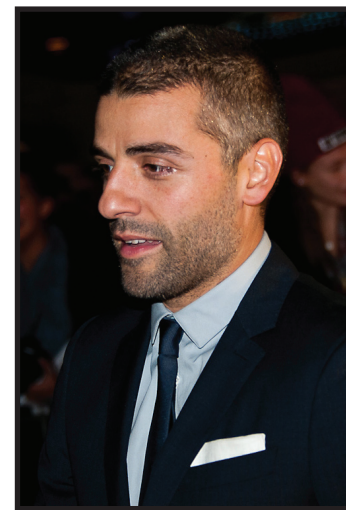
In order to do this and keep his family safe, Morales must go toe-to-toe with petty criminals, overly competitive 'business' owners, the law and general corruption. When Morales is not able to fully do this, his daring wife Anna, played by Jessica Chastain, steps in to complicate the situation.

A big theme of this film is finding a balance between personal morals, honesty and corruption. Isaac does a terrific job of showing the conflict between taking the easy way out of a situation and doing the morally right thing.

A Most Violent Year offers a distinct gritty tone that captivates the audience with gorgeous cinematography that highlights the period well. The film transcends the usual crime-drama by throwing in new twists and turns, in order to keep the movie fresh.

The only downside to the film is that it moves slowly in the beginning, but the problem is fixed with brilliant storytelling and several exciting action sequences later on.

A Most Violent Year is a great movie to start off the New Year with. It gives a new meaning to the crime-drama genre and thoroughly entertains an audience.



The film's main star, Oscar Isaac.



The official poster for the film.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The reality of reality TV

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

Millions of Americans watch reality television. Today, some of the popular shows include *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, *The Bachelor*, *Project Runway* and *The Real Housewives*. These shows can create instant fame for their stars. Many celebrities excel in the limelight, but several of them crack under the pressure of being on camera. Many transform into different people from who they were before reality television, and whether this is a positive or negative change depends on the star and their mental fortitude.

One reality television family that has hit rock bottom in recent times are the Giudices. Just recently, *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* star Teresa Giudice was sentenced to jail for 15 months on accounts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bankruptcy fraud. These crimes show how the pressure of being on reality television is financially dangerous. The family committed fraud to preserve the lavish lifestyle they portrayed while filming. "Money definitely corrupts people," junior Lucie Rosenthal said. "I would not be surprised if that was why they committed fraud." This is a prime example of how being on a reality television show can destroy people's lives.

However, several stars benefit from

the fame reality television gives. A great example is singer Carrie Underwood. Before her season on *American Idol*, Underwood was just a regular girl living in rural Oklahoma. After winning the hit reality show, Underwood gained instant success. She produced four hit albums and has won major awards like Female Vocalist of the Year at the Country Music Awards and Best Country Solo Performance at the 2015 Grammys. Today, she is still very popular and her music is still at the top of the charts. Underwood acts as a counter to the argument that reality television stars are always corrupted by the fame and fortune of their new careers.



Carrie Underwood performs, keeps things classy.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user 17Drew

By looking at the Giudice family and Carrie Underwood, everyone acknowledges that reality television fame can be beneficial, but it also can be damaging. Many stars from reality television make horrible choices because of their lives existing on camera 24/7. Yet, some stars also thrive from this fame and their lives are now better because of it. The real takeaway is that fame comes with a high price, but if stars act genuinely natural on and off camera they will be successful.

Prime time was our time

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

Disney and Nickelodeon TV shows come and go, but the memories of your favorite episodes will never fade away. Since the last episode of *Wizards of Waverley Place* aired in 2012, Disney Channel and Nickelodeon shows have gone from totally rad to totally bad.

Anyone, age 15 and up, can understand how sad it is to watch the Nickelodeon and Disney Channel shows of today. Where did the great shows go? What happened to the originality and comedy? Senior Grace Hammerle said, "I feel as if the creators are running out of ideas; now it is just kind of weird and uncomfortable." While watching current shows like *Dog with a Blog*, I often ask myself, why is this relevant? Where are the great life lessons once associated with child shows? And why does it concern a talking dog with a blog? I find myself cringing and beginning to feel a little violated, almost as if they have ripped something so great away from my daily entertainment.

I have realized that the prime time for kid TV shows was our time in the early

2000s. Even *SpongeBob Squarepants* has changed immensely. Before, *SpongeBob* was hilariously stupid and occasionally relatable. "I feel like now they are trying too hard to be funny, and it is kind of disappointing," said Hammerle.

Although the networks have attempted to breathe some "old life" back into their channels with shows like *Girl Meets World*, they still have not gained back those memorable moments in an episode. Being able to turn on an episode of *Lizzie McGuire* and learn how to do math with scrunchies or watch *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide* and learn the tricks to get through middle school, those learning experiences and advice from TV shows are ones that you and I will not forget while growing up.

Now that we are in high school and watching more mature shows it is sad to admit that most of us have left that "kid humor" behind. Hopefully, kids now a' days get to have the chance to watch shows that we got to watch way back when. Because growing up sucks and so do current kid TV shows.



SpongeBob's comedy has suffered a huge loss over the years.



Drake and Josh, a show that defined a generation.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user Mobu27 and Wikipedia Commons

Too many scandals, not enough sports

Drew Leshman '17, Hot or Not Editor

Sports are the place for people and athletes to lose their constant distractions and focus on what they love the most. Scandals today are becoming a big part of the sports world, no matter which game is present. Whether it is the New England Patriots supposedly deflating their footballs, or Lance Armstrong taking steroids, these events have a negative impact on the purity of sports.

Some of these scandals surround teams and organizations, while others focus on individual players such as the Tiger Woods and Josh Shaw incidents. In 2009, the legendary golfer Tiger Woods was caught cheating on his wife with about a dozen different women. This severely hurt his reputation, and it is something that will always be a part of his golf legacy, which could come back to haunt him at any time.

Josh Shaw was a cornerback for the University of Southern California Trojans. In the summer of 2014, Shaw supposedly told fans a story about how he saved his nephew from drowning after jumping from a two-story building into a pool. Shaw took advantage of this event and made himself sound like he was a hero, but it was later discovered to be a lie. Shaw was immediately kicked off the team, but he was later reinstated by the Trojans with just a few games left in the season. The coaching staff waiting toward the end of the season to allow Shaw to return shows how much faith and confidence was lost in Shaw's character and demeanor.

Barry Bonds, the former San Francisco and Pittsburgh left fielder, was found taking steroids in 2003. Bonds, being the all-time home run leader in the history of the MLB, still has not made it into the Hall of Fame (HOF) due to his questionable decisions. "He probably should [get into the Hall of Fame], but he won't. He's a great player, but he cheated," sophomore Joey Berlin said. Bonds continues to hope that one day he will be placed in the HOF.

The professional cyclist Lance Armstrong had an incident in which he was accused of using performance enhancing drugs. Armstrong is another athlete that once again denied these accusations until 2013, when he admitted to doping on the Oprah Winfrey Show. "It was pretty cheap, him encouraging other bikers to put themselves in an advantage unfairly is wrong," senior Noah Witus said. Armstrong's seven out of ten Tour de France titles were stripped and he is still in the process of filing to receive them back.

As sports today are still evolving and becoming more popular, one can only hope that players and organizations will put an end to performing acts against the rules. Even though committing these risky acts is becoming less common, it is still a huge part of the sports world. Athletes like Shaw and Armstrong give sports a bad reputation, as they take away the real meaning of the games and add a level of distraction that is not necessary and detract from the original intentions of sports.



Photo courtesy of SunSports

Armstrong wins the Tour de France for the seventh time in consecutive years, but that was not his biggest headline.

Pro Bowl now watchable

Justin Flood '17, Circulation Manager

The Pro Bowl has always been referred to as the Super Bowl's little brother. The difference in the amount of viewers is the reason why the Pro Bowl has this reputation. The Super Bowl, held in early February just a week after the Pro Bowl on Jan. 27, usually takes all of the excitement away from the Pro Bowl. The NFL's all-star game has a tattered image, as it is the only major all-star game that draws lower TV ratings than regular-season games.

However, the NFL proposed a plan to fix the problem concerning the amount of viewers that was initiated in 2014. Under this new system, the teams are no longer composed of the two separate conferences, and are instead chosen by two team captains (two Hall of Fame players) in a televised "schoolyard pick" four days prior to the game. Sophomore Kevin Jurvis said, "It used to be boring watching the Pro Bowl because it was so soft. In reality, no one usually cares about [the game] because the Super Bowl is soon after."

The league is attempting to resolve this problem with a new system, hoping to draw in more viewers and make the game garner more importance. Senior Ben Nemeth said, "It is more fun to watch now that people pick teams instead of it just being NFC vs. AFC." This happens to be more entertaining because former teammates and players that do not play against each other during the regular-season now have a chance of playing with each other in the Pro Bowl.

Nemeth confirmed, "I think [the game] got a lot more competitive, compared to people not even trying in years past. The new system will lead to the Pro Bowl no longer being known as a weak game with a lot of hyped up offense."

With the new system in effect, the NFL is aiming to pull away from the previously held soft reputation and create a new, more entertaining game to watch. With Pro Bowls to come in the future, the amount of viewers is expected to increase with the new system of structuring the Pro Bowl being enforced. The league's goal is for the popularity and thrill of the Super Bowl to spread to the Pro Bowl as well, making for an enjoyable couple weeks of football.



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Pistons become a playoff contender

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

The Detroit Pistons have had a roller coaster season under first year coach and president, Stan Van Gundy. The Pistons' roster is composed of many young players with potential, but according to NBA.com's season preview by John Schuhmann, the pistons entered 2014 as just the 20th best team out of 30.

Going into the season, fans also had low expectations because of the team's 113-147 record over the previous three seasons. As part of the loaded Central Division, the Pistons were never going to have home court advantage, but the hope was that young talent like Andre Drummond, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Spencer Dinwiddie and Greg Monroe would continue to develop into solid NBA players, and possibly contend for a playoff spot.

The Pistons started off the season in horrible fashion. After going 5-23 and showing no signs of making a run, Van Gundy made the decision to waive their highest paid player, Josh Smith, who is making \$14,000,000 in each of the next three seasons. The Pistons still have to pay Smith's contract, but it does not go against their salary cap. Although freeing up cap space does not help the Pistons now, the extra money available will offer them more flexibility at

the trade deadline and the next offseason as they attempt to build a roster capable of achieving a winning record. Amazingly, the Pistons went 12-3 over the next 15 games without Smith and have shown that they can exceed expectations and certainly compete for a spot in this year's playoffs.

On Jan. 24, starting point guard Brandon Jennings tore his achilles tendon putting him out for the season. Since then, D.J. Augustin has been an adequate replacement for Jennings, but he does not possess the leadership or confidence that Jennings had during the winning streak. The Pistons have not looked the same since the injury, however Andre Drummond and Greg Monroe have picked up some of the scoring burden.

Although the Pistons could still make a run for a playoff spot, they will likely need to acquire a score-first guard at the trade deadline in order to compete with the better teams in the east. They are one of the best teams in terms of interior scoring, but they need to be able to spread out more and outscore some teams because they are going to encounter some games in which they will not be able to rely on just their defense.



Photo courtesy of William Martin

Pistons' head coach Stan Van Gundy calling an offensive play.

The root of consistency in Detroit sports

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor

Detroit is currently among the best sports cities in the country, but it was not always this way. The four major teams in Detroit: the Lions, Pistons, Red Wings and Tigers, have not always been successful. One thing for sure is that Detroit sports would not be what they are today without the guidance of the following legends in their respective sport.

Barry Sanders Detroit Lions

The Detroit Lions are one of the most unpredictable teams in sports today. Any season can result in vastly different ways, from finishing last in the division, to being the best team in the NFC. However, it is fairly certain that Detroiters would rather have this ambiguity over the definite losses that have plagued the Lions more so than any other franchise in history. Before these last few seasons, the only thing Lions' fans had to brag about was former running back Barry Sanders, who is widely considered to be one of the greatest running backs of all time. Sanders led the Honolulu blue and silver to five of their 15 playoff appearances since 1935, the start of the Super Bowl era. Sanders had a considerably brief career of just 10 seasons, in which he finished over the 1,000-yard mark every season.

Isiah Thomas Detroit Pistons

The "Bad Boys" Pistons era defined basketball in the Motor City in the 1989-1990 seasons, with their back-to-back NBA Championships. Their distinct physical style of play set them apart from the rest of the league, and their leader was the fearless point guard, Isiah Thomas. Thomas played in the NBA for 13 years and never averaged less than 14 points per game, even in his final season. Even with his slash and score style, Thomas made all of his teammates better, as his career average in assists is just over nine per game. Furthermore describing Thomas' leadership role, sophomore Zack Schwartz said, "[Thomas] had a toughness about him and went after everything head-first." Thomas has his number nine jersey hanging at the Palace, and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

Steve Yzerman Detroit Red Wings

Currently the general manager for the Tampa Bay Lightning, Steve Yzerman was a longtime captain of the Detroit Red Wings. In fact, he was named captain at the age of 21, which made Yzerman the youngest captain in NHL history at that time. The Red Wings have been the epitome of success in hockey for decades, and this is largely due to Yzerman. "The Captain" played 22 seasons in the NHL and was a dominant force for a majority of them. Yzerman had 11 30-goal seasons and led the Wings to three of their 11 total Stanley Cups. Yzerman was also known for his unique defensive ability as a forward, which is demonstrated with his career +185 +/- rating. Yzerman was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2009, shortly after having his jersey retired at Joe Louis Arena.

Ty Cobb Detroit Tigers

One of the grittiest, toughest players in the history of baseball comes from the Detroit Tigers back in the early 20th century. His name was Ty Cobb. The center fielder played 22 of his 24 years in Detroit. Cobb boasts a .366 career batting average, which is almost unheard of in modern day baseball. Cobb was also known for his speed and aggressive slides, as he averaged 48 stolen bases per season. Cobb's infamous aggressive slides into second base would cut the opponents' hands so that they would drop the ball, making him safe at second base. This is viewed as a dirty play now, but back then it was just part of the game. Cobb did not play at Comerica Park and does not have his jersey retired for the Tigers organization, but Cobb was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

24 THE SPECTATOR

YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE PRESIDENT, IT'S OKAY

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Everyone remembers when they were five years old and the dream that one day they could be the President of the United States was still within reach, or at least that is what our parents told us. When we were five years old, there were no limits on how far we could go and what we could achieve, and there was no doubt in our minds that our lives would be nothing short of amazing. Sitting here writing this at sixteen years old, many would say that I still have my entire life ahead of me, but the truth is some things are just not a possibility. That being said, I still believe or hope, that my life is going to be successful and worthwhile.

A few months ago, in Honors English 11, we learned about the philosophy known as transcendentalism. While most of the ideals associated with this belief system are not practical and would be difficult to live by, one aspect of transcendentalism really made me think about the way we portray “success” in our society. One assignment we were to complete during this unit was a debate on whether an education is needed to attain success. Without question, everyone in the room was in agreement that, yes, a formal, college education is needed in order to achieve the success that we, as a society, have defined throughout the years. I believed strongly in the institution of college and a higher education, and I still do, but after being put on the opposing side to my initial views, it really made me think about the success we strive so hard to achieve.

Months later, still dwelling on that idea, I went to check my ACT scores. For every senior and nearly every junior, the ACT score page is an all too familiar site. While thoroughly examining the numbers on the screen, I noticed a note to the left of every score under a column with the title, “Does your score meet the ACT College Readiness Benchmark?” that read, “Yes, but you could further improve your (subject) score.” Since reading this I have been thinking a lot about what this means, and I have come to the conclusion that the success we one day hope to achieve is ultimately not possible. This message basically said, “you did well, but you can always do better,” and that is not just applicable to the ACT, but to almost every aspect of our lives, and therein lies the problem.

From a young age we are told to reach for the stars, to reach for those lofty expectations of being the president, an astronaut, a ballerina, a race car driver or any other cliché five-year-old dream job. Of course we need to be encouraging our youth to live up to their full potential, but why are these highly unattainable and rarely achieved jobs an ultimate view of success? Where did the idea of happiness go when we defined success, or can happiness only truly be achieved by attaining a ‘dream job’?

Now that I have realized I will never be the president or an astronaut, there is this feeling that I have not achieved everything that I can. The truth is that there can only be one president, and many other ‘dream jobs’ require a very specialized set of skills that most people just do not possess. While we can tell children that they all have a shot, the reality is that they do not. That sounds really harsh but it is almost more harsh to raise the expectations, hopes and dreams of every child, only to let them later discover that the dreams they one day hoped to reach are impossible.

I am not saying that we should not be encouraging children to strive for success, but the way we define and perceive this idea of success is what needs to be changed. Achieving happiness should come before attaining fame, money or prestige.

Making happiness an end goal is important for five year olds, but it is as, if not more, important for people our age to know that as well. High school is a place with a wide range of strengths, weaknesses and special talents. Throughout the entirety of their high school career, students are bombarded with lecture after lecture regarding the importance of going to college and setting oneself up for a stable future. And while a stable future is important, college may not be the right place for some or the right way to reach a fulfilled life. What may seem like an unsuccessful life to one, may be a perfectly happy life for another. We need to stop using one perception of success to make others feel as if they have not achieved as much or done enough because success and happiness come differently for all people, and we need to acknowledge that.

Society needs to stop making the idea of success such an unattainable idea. Success can be achieved. One does not have to be a multi-millionaire, Oscar-winning or Grammy-winning person to attain it, they just need to be content with themselves; so please, world, stop making every effort possible to downgrade lives that are successful, meaningful, and above all, happy.

RAPE CULTURE: PUTTING AN END TO THE IGNORANCE

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

When bad things happen, we go through stages: first denial, then anger, followed by bargaining and depression, which all eventually lead to acceptance. But, what if one never gets closure or feels justice for a wrongdoing? We are taught as human beings to be held accountable for our actions, to receive punishment for any offenses that we execute in society. In many cases, this process is evaluated constantly in concepts like war, racism and gender inequality. While these are obviously all important problems, there is one issue that is being overlooked: rape. It is a dirty word. It rolls off the tongue like sharp razor blades. People avoid talking about it because it is a term that is ignored, uncomfortable and unpleasant. It packs a punch. Rape culture is not a topic that should be taken lightly, but it is, and it occurs constantly on every street corner, dark alley or party, and often times by people who one may have considered a friend.

The concept of rape has become so prominent that it has become a part of our culture, a part of our society and a part of something that is becoming exponentially worse. Women are taught from young ages how to avoid unwanted physical interactions with men. These tips include: do not leave your drink unattended; avoid wearing any clothing that is revealing or tight or short; do not walk alone at night; give a fake phone number rather than outright rejecting someone; do not wear your hair up if it is long; do not drink too much; carry pepper spray; travel in groups of three or more; learn self-defense—the list goes on and so do the excuses. The problem with rape culture is that society is teaching women how to avoid rape and how to protect themselves from rapists, rather than teaching men how to be men, how to be civil and how to treat others with respect. Remember in the first grade, when you walked into school and the teacher went through the general “golden rules” of the class? One of those rules included ‘treating others the way you would like to be treated.’ This concept still applies and should be carried out through life. However, that is not reality. Let me make an analogy for you: this situation is like a loaded gun. By teaching women how to avoid rape, it is like shooting at a bullet proof vest; it is ineffective and does not always guarantee protection. The more logical thought is to unload the bullets, or in this case, educate men.

The amount of people who unfortunately encounter this experience have often endured taking the blame for what occurred to them. And the most unfortunate part is that they rarely receive help or acknowledgement for the situation. It affects the victim, because that is what they are: the victim. The way that a woman dresses or how much alcohol she consumes is not a flashing, neon sign implicating that she wants sex, and that she is ‘asking for it.’ The clothing that a woman chooses to wear is not a reason for liability to be put on her or a justification for the crime taking place to happen. Because of this, the idea of rape has become somewhat of a joke. This may be because in our culture, it happens so often. According to *USA Today*, one in five women is raped. The statistics for developing cancer at some point in one’s life is at a lower probability than that of rape occurring. Perhaps the issue behind this problem is that people do not understand the notion of rape. Rape culture is much more than just the act of rape. More often than not, it is situations in which sexual assault, rape and general violence are trivialized, normalized or made into jokes.

And this happens a lot. All the time. Every day.

Movements have been organized to terminate rape culture from our society and prevent these kinds of acts from ensuing. Since the 1970s, anti-rape campaigns have been structured to extinguish rape culture through education. Despite their efforts, however, rape is still among one of the most common cases in a Special Victims Unit court of law. To end this predicament permanently, we need to diminish this problem at the root of the source: society. Yes, society. Not exclusively men or women, but all of us. We decide what is socially acceptable and what is not. By changing ourselves, we can change how others interpret rape culture and move towards making rape completely vanish altogether and become nonexistent. Rape culture will end, but how soon it will be extinct is determined by the actions people take and how prominently they enforce them. Lead by example, because a movement to end any type of issue ranging from rape culture to gender inequality to civil rights is not going to happen overnight; it will take time, but we need to start acknowledging a problem in order to fix it. The first step to solving problems is admitting that there is a problem. Women are often perceived as the damsel in distress, helpless and constantly seeking rescuing, but we are not; women have the power to change how we see rape culture, and how we see the world.

For decades, women have been competing with one another rather than working together towards a common goal. Now is a better time than ever to take this as an opportunity to build each other up and become powerful together to override this indecency and human disgrace that has been disregarded for far too long. Let us finally put an end to rape culture.