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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.*

Sometimes, and I know this sounds weird, I feel like a tree. Like I'll be walking around school and all of a sudden I just feel a sudden urge to take root and lift my arms in branch-like fashion, photosynthesizing and what not. It might be caused by stress. Is this normal?

I do not think this is normal at all. I have never heard of someone wanting to be a tree before. If you feel the need to stretch sometimes during school, that makes sense because you have probably been sitting for a long time. If you do really feel this way, maybe it is because of stress, but either way you will probably get over the feeling shortly. As far as the photosynthesizing goes, I do not have any idea what that is. I guess the only advice I can give is to eat more.

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

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

- 1 . The Dakotas (North and South)
- 2 . Bing.com
- 3 . Dewey decimal system
- 4 . Chain-link fences
- 5 . Hawaiian Punch



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

Do you think the Bears' hockey team has what it takes for a state title?

I have only been to one Berkley hockey game this year, but from what I saw I think they have a chance to make a playoff run. With the team's offense being so potent, they are in any game and have the ability to come back. In hockey, the team with the hot goal keeper usually wins, so if that team is Berkley, I think it is possible.

Photo courtesy of drpeppersapplegroup, dreamstime, and ppcforhire

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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 Mr. Andrew Meloche (from his high school years) hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165/116 and show her where Meloche 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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Report shows years of CIA abuse

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On Dec. 9, 2014, the Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program, a report composed by the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI), released 525 pages detailing abusive behavior by CIA officials and overall shortcomings of the detention program.

The report describes various forms of abuse by the CIA from 2001 to 2006. The report shows that the CIA provided false information to the media and to government officials. The document discloses that, "The CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice (DOJ), impeding a proper legal analysis of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program" and that "the conditions of confinement for CIA detainees were harsher than the CIA had represented to policymakers and others." The CIA overstepped their boundaries of law and justice in order to commit inhumane and unethical acts of torture on detainees.

Previously unknown detainees and forms of torture, that were much harsher than originally disclosed, were also revealed in this report. Some torture techniques that were used on detainees suspected of terrorism had "not been approved by the Department of Justice or had not been authorized by CIA Headquarters." These methods include keeping prisoners awake for a week, creating hallucinations while also telling detainees that they would rape and kill their family if they did not answer.

The effects of the "enhanced interrogation techniques" were also provided, stating that, "The CIA's use of its enhanced interrogation techniques was not an effective means of acquiring intelligence or gaining cooperation from detainees."

Another shocking discovery of this report was that out of 119 prisoners, at least 26 of them were found innocent. A week after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, President George W. Bush signed a covert agreement with the CIA that they have the power to "undertake operations designed to capture and detain persons who pose a continuing, serious threat of violence or death to US persons and interests or who are planning terrorist activities." It allowed the CIA to make judgement calls, with consequences like the confinement and torture of people, later proven innocent, based on allegations by other prisoners who had been tortured prior to providing this false information.

When CIA Director of the National Clandestine Service, Jose Rodriguez, destroyed over 100 tapes of interrogations by the CIA in 2005, the SSCI considered that he may have been covering up illegal actions, even though the CIA had told officials that Rodriguez was not destroying any evidence.

On March 9, 2014 the SSCI voted 14-1 to order an investigation into the actions of the CIA. The report cost 40 million dollars and was compiled based on six million documents, emails and other materials from the CIA.

The report was approved for publishing on Dec. 13, 2012 with a vote of 9-6 in favor. On April 3, 2014, the SSCI voted 11-3 to provide a revised copy of the report that could be used for public release, and after eight months, that executive summary and findings were made public on Dec. 9.

Movie sparks conflict

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

On Dec. 17, Sony announced the cancellation of the release of the highly anticipated comedy, *The Interview*. The cancellation came after Sony was hacked and threatened, which the FBI believes to be by the North Korean government, because the movie made fun of their dictator, Kim Jong-un, and ultimately assassinated him.

Although Sony changed their mind on Dec. 23 and decided to release the film on Christmas day in the theater after all, the U.S. government has not given North Korea a free pass. On Jan. 2, President Obama issued an executive order to further isolate North Korea from the rest of the world by placing sanctions on their arms industry.

Many people are concerned that both North Korea and the U.S. are overreacting, but others say that just the hacking by North Korea went too far, and the U.S. needs to protect their citizens and corporation by retaliating. The U.S. has said that they are not afraid to take further actions and place more sanctions on North Korea if necessary.

Creators Seth Rogen and James Franco insist they did not mean for all of this controversy when they set out to make *The Interview*, but Rogen explains that he has no regrets about the film. "We set out to make a movie that was really entertaining to audiences and I genuinely think we did that. And that's where my job ends," Rogen said in an interview.

US-Cuba relations to be reinstated

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

As of Dec. 17, the U.S. will begin to reinstate diplomatic ties with Cuba after over 50 years of hostility and failed politics. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro announced a series of discussions to normalize diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S. The talks were conducted in secrecy with assistance from Pope Francis and were held in both Vatican City and Canada.

In addition to normalized diplomacy, a prisoner exchange was conducted with Cuba, releasing several dozen political prisoners, including Alan Gross, an American citizen imprisoned in Cuba. He was arrested for secretly distributing laptops while he was improving Internet access for Cuban Jews. The U.S. released the last three of the Cuban Five, a group of Cuban intelligence officers in prison in Miami since 1998, charged with espionage.

The so-called "Cuban Thaw" will entail the reestablishment of an American embassy in Havana, which closed when diplomatic ties were severed in 1961 with Cuba's former leader, Fidel Castro. Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, a classification given by the U.S. State Department to countries that have "repeatedly provided support for act of international terrorism," which it has held since 1982, will be reevaluated. Some travel restrictions to Cuba will be lifted, pertaining only to people already allowed to travel, such as American citizens with family members in Cuba. Tourism to Cuba from the U. S. is still not permitted. The trade embargo that has crippled the Cuban economy for decades will remain in place, as the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 prohibits the lifting of the embargo until free and fair elections are held in Cuba without the involvement of the Castro family.

President Kennedy breached diplomatic ties with Cuba in 1961 following Cuba's increasing involvement with the Soviet Union. Fifty-three years after relations were

frozen and 23 years after the collapse of the USSR, President Obama decided to lessen the restrictions he views as archaic. "Neither the American, nor the Cuban people are well served by a rigid policy that is rooted in events that took place before most of us were born," President Obama said in a statement released by the White House on Dec. 17.

The historic change signals a new age of U.S. diplomacy. While it may be a while yet before the economic embargo is lifted and full diplomatic ties reinstated, the thaw will likely have lasting effects and lead to further normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba.



President Obama and former Cuban president Raul Castro talk last year at Nelson Mandela's funeral.

Photo courtesy of Reuters photography

Pakistan Taliban attacks school

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

On Dec. 17, 2014 Taliban militants stormed a military-run school in Peshawar, Pakistan and massacred 145 people, 132 of which were students.

The attack on the Army Public School in the northwestern city near Afghanistan's borders was one of the worst incidents of extremist violence in Pakistan to date. It has been several years since the last major extremist incident in 2007, a suicide bombing that took place in the port city of Karachi, killing nearly 150 people. Recently, Peshawar has been the target of frequent militant attacks, including one that took place in September of 2013 when a twin suicide bombing was conducted on a local church, killing at least 85 civilians.

Asim Bajwa, spokesman for the Pakistani military, said that in addition to the 132 children killed in the attack, 121 more students and three staffers were wounded at the school, which houses more than 1,000 students and staff members.

It is suspected that seven gunman stormed the school wearing explosive vests. Immediately, upon entering the school, they did not take hostages but instead fired haphazardly on random students and teachers. According to *USA Today*, Pakistani Taliban spokesman Mohammed Umar Khorasanin, militants scaled the school's walls around 10 a.m. that morning, with their intent on killing older students.

As stated in an interview with *USA Today* in the article "Anger against Taliban mounts after Pakistan school attack," Bajwa expressed his belief that the Pakistani Taliban's sole purpose was to kill innocent children. Some students added their own accounts, testifying that the attackers had also detonated a bomb when students were gathered for an exam in the school's auditorium.

Hamza Khan, 15, and a student at the academy, said that many students initially thought maintenance work was being done on the school's building. "At first we thought there is some repair work going on in the backyard. But then the bullets were fired in the back door of the main hall and the terrorists entered the hall and opened fire on the students," Khan said in the article.

Once the attack had begun though, army commandos moved in on the scene, exchanging fire with the gunmen while students scrambled for safety. All seven gunmen perished in the assault, but cause of death is unclear of whether or not it was self-inflicted.

According to CNN online article "Taliban attack on Pakistani school," Khorasanin is said to have stated that the terrorist incident was a "revenge attack" for an army offensive in North Waziristan in June that targeted militants. However, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has vowed to continue the fight against militants in his country.

The attack highlighted the vulnerability of Pakistani schools, which have been targeted prior to this event, most famously connecting to the attack that took place two years ago on Malala Yousafzai. Yousafzai, a Pakistani school girl, was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman outside of her school in Swat Valley for protesting anti-women's rights in the Middle East. Since, Yousafzai has become a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and global advocate for girls' education. She has not returned to Pakistan for security reasons.

It is unknown if there will be any further attacks on other schools in the Pakistani region. In the future the government will try to enforce new laws in order to protect their students' well-being from any future terrorist incidents.



A Pakistani soldier helps children to safety following a shooting at the local school.

Photo courtesy of haaretz

Will the real Bill Cosby please stand up?

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

Recent accusations of rape and sexual assault have changed the legacy of once highly respected man and actor Bill Cosby. Various women have spoken out, confessing that they were sexually assaulted by Cosby. For decades, he has been the face of the all American "family man" due to his most notable character on *The Cosby Show* (1984-1994). He was a role model for fathers and sons alike around the world. The American public is now confused as to who the real Bill Cosby is. While this is recent news, it is not the first time the American public has heard rumor of Cosby engaging in inappropriate behavior.

The accusations started in 2004 when Andrea Constand, former professional basketball player, filed a lawsuit against Cosby for rape. She claimed that he drugged her to get her into bed, and then proceeded to sexually assault her. However, when she brought this to a lawyer in 2004, Constand's only option was to file anonymously because her lawyer thought that bringing this public may harm her. She was strongly against the idea and refused to do so. Constand wanted the ability to share her story with the world about the American role model under her own name. Within the past 10 years, Constand has worked tirelessly to get her story to the American people, but no one seemed to take her seriously until the number of victims speaking out against Cosby started to grow.

Over 30 women have spoken out against Cosby as of January 2015, telling similar stories. According to the article *Timeline: Abuse Charges Against Bill Cosby* by Matt Giles and Nick Jones from *Vulture*, most of the women were allegedly invited over to the hotel where Cosby was staying and were given a drink that had been drugged. Very few actually remember the rape, but they do remember waking up, undressed, with Cosby still there.

The American public is baffled that their beloved American father could be capable of committing such crimes. No one knows what to think of him any more, as his spotless reputation is rapidly being altered for the worst. Until it is answered with confidence, the question remains: is Bill Cosby a felon, or is he the funny, family man everyone knows him to be? It is necessary that the real Bill Cosby comes forward.

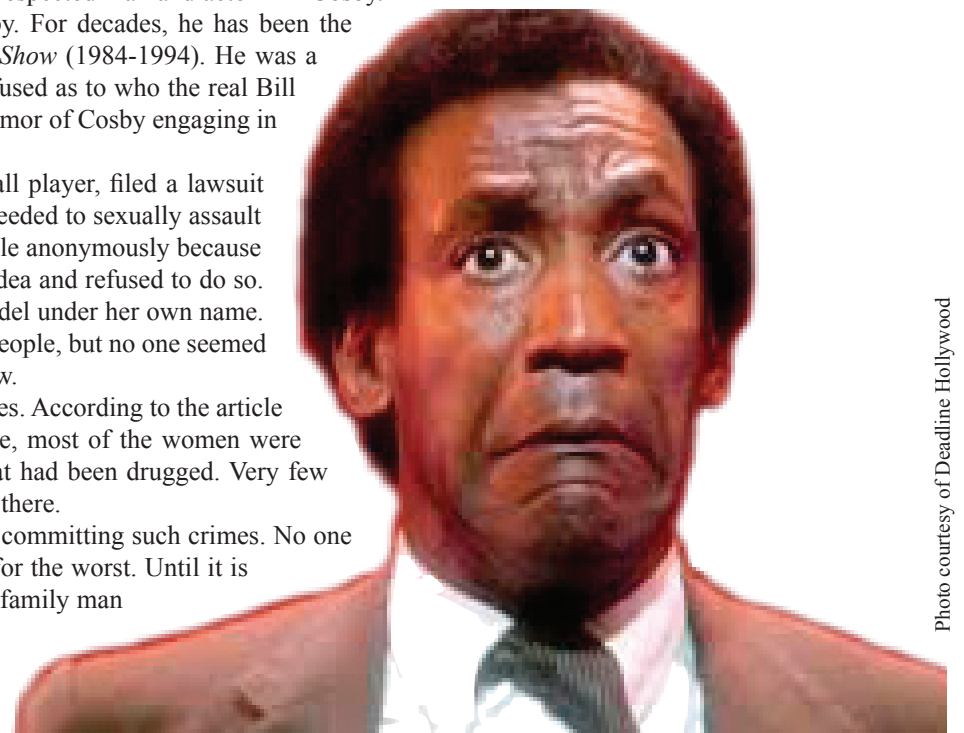


Photo courtesy of Deadline Hollywood

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People go llamas over new mobile game

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

Over the last month, a new sensation has been sweeping the nation. People everywhere just cannot get enough of the brand new mobile game, *The Unreal Llama Chronicles* by TotallyLegitGamezLel. This new game is an MMORPG rogue-like, indie, puzzle, first-person-shooter extravaganza in which players level up and customize your own personal llama while teaming up with others online to defeat the Evil King Llamadon III. Critics are calling it an “8 out of 8,” “Astounding,” “Cool” and “Ok, I guess.” But the best part about it is that the whole thing is absolutely free to play!

This game features super special shiny llama-bits. It is a special currency in the game that allows you to purchase exclusive items such as pet llamas, pointless hats and “ad removal spray” that you cannot get with the standard gold currency. Gaining llama-bits could not be easier; you simply have to spend your hard earned cash. You can buy them in different amounts, ranging from beach pail-sized 500 bits for \$10, to the best deal of an airplane hanger of 1,000,000 bits for only \$15,000. Then you can buy any special items and make your llama better than any other peasant llama who cannot afford an airplane hanger.

I tried interviewing some of the top players on the leaderboard, but most of them were too busy playing the game to actually pick up the phone. That is, until I got to Kevin.



Kevin is ranked number 2,999,698th out of over three million players. When asked about his success story he replied, “Well, after a couple weeks I still hadn’t made enough gold to buy a plain white t-shirt. That was when I decided to buy two airplane-hangers of bits.

I was able to get a cool llama gun and beat the first boss, but I’m already out of bits... and money. I had to drop out of college! This game literally [made my life better]. I freaking [love] this game!”

I was also lucky enough to get a short interview with the head of TotallyLegitGamezLel who, for fear of death threats, prefers to be left anonymous. I will refer to him as Phil for the interview. When asked about his success story, Phil said, “Hard work pays off, but paying up also pays off— at least that is what the IRS told me. So I decided to choose the latter for my game design. Look man, I understand people, and I know that there is nothing people love to do more than spend their money. Yup, so that’s basically why I’m rich now.” Phil also hinted at a sequel, saying “With all the money I made, I can start work on *The Unreal Llama Chronicles 2: This Time It’s Real*. You can expect it on all mobile platforms, uh, probably like next week if I get around to it.” It goes without saying that I, nor the world, can wait that long to see what the exciting sequel has in store.

Photo courtesy of Intergalacticrobot

Marshall law declared in Florida

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

BREAKING NEWS: After a record breaking quarter inch of snow, all hell has broken loose in Florida. As these unnamed white crystals fell, millions of humans abandoned their cars, and thousands of animals escaped from the zoo. One frantic citizen was heard yelling, “Where is this white fluff coming from? Dear God! What did we do to deserve this!?” Many Floridians have turned to religion to find answers on what is now being called the white death. A local pastor who founded one of these support groups said, “We don’t know what this white stuff is, but we believe that it is God punishing us for our state’s flaws.”

The governor of the state, who is thought to have cracked under the pressure, is nowhere to be found. In his absence, Terk, a gorilla who acts as the leader of the escaped animals, has taken control. In a recent press release, Terk said, “Grrrrrrrrr, grrr grrrrrr gr grrrr. Grrrrrr gr; grrrr grrrr grrrrrr, grrrr gr.”

Terk has made it clear that his reign is temporary, and as soon as the new polling booths are finished (Terk cited the 2000 Bush vs. Gore presidential election as a low point for the state of Florida), he will step down and allow voting to take place. In the meantime, Terk has enforced stricter gun regulations, repealed the stand your ground laws, legalized marijuana and gay marriage, and with animals ruling instead of humans, racism in Florida has practically vanished.

Some old white guy in Boca Raton, Florida said, “These new regulations are an

abomination to our state. Florida has a long history of excellence in all areas, including shootings, racial tension and elections/laws. No gorilla can run a country better than a human.”

Taking all recent events into account, Florida is actually in better shape now than before. Other states have seen these drastic improvements and have voted animals into office, most notably Winnie the Pooh in New York and Scooby Doo in California. Hopefully, these new legislators will follow suit and continue the immense progress seen in Florida under Terk’s temporary reign.



Snowfall crippled the state of Florida, allowing animals to rise to power.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The **HOT** or **NOTs** of January

Detroit Pistons

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

The Detroit Pistons have gone through a rough patch of time with little success achieved in the past five or so years. Not making the playoffs since 2008 is no easy setback to contend with for the Motor City, and the team has had very few triumphs on the court. They are thus trying to change their game plan for 2015. Since the abysmal 5-23 start to their season, their record improved when forward Josh Smith was released on Dec. 22. Since then, however, as of Dec. 26, the Pistons have been on a huge tear, winning nine out of their ten games following the 26th. Fans have been more interested in the team that was once thought of as the laughing stock of the eastern conference. Pistons' fans are crossing their fingers as they hope there is still time left in the season to squeeze into a playoff spot.

Movie sequels

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

It is no secret that good movies turn a huge profit, and then spawn sequels because movie makers know fans will pay to see them. While there may be a number of successful sequels, some even more enjoyable than the original, there are just as many, if not more, bad ones. Sure it can be hard for movies to live up to the reputation of their predecessors, but the main problem is when a saga "overstays its welcome." This includes some popular movies such as *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *Ice Age: Continental Drift* and *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. Sometimes they are worse due to new writers who do not share the passion and devotion to see their movie succeed that the original writers put into the first film. Be cautious and check the reviews of any movie with a number greater than two in the title.

Winter break

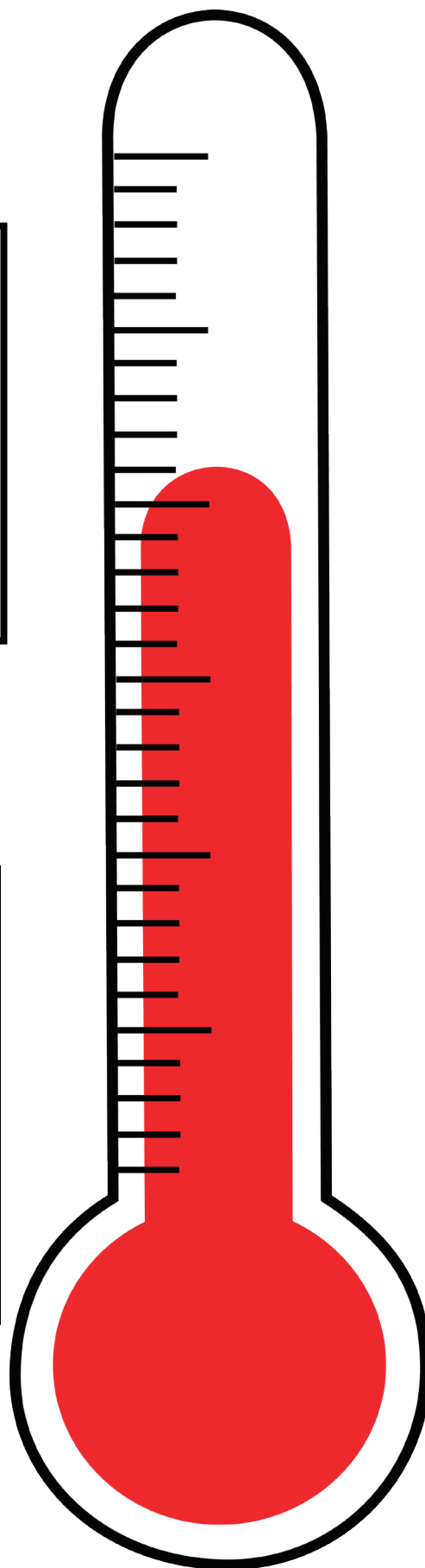
Will Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

The holiday break during the 2014-2015 year school went from Dec. 22, 2014 to Jan. 4, 2015, lasting a total of 16 days. Compared to last year's break that was only scheduled to last 12 days, and would have resulted in students going back to school on a Thursday, if not for a plethora of unexpected snow days, this year's stretched upwards of two weeks. While the placement of New Year's Day was the reason for the extended break, and not community feedback, Berkley schools residents enjoyed the break none the less. Full break weeks also allow for easier planning of family getaways. Having to travel back in the middle of the week and/or miss school is always a major hassle. Everyone was able to have a well-deserved vacation, while minimizing the bitterness that goes hand in hand with the end of any break.

Finals

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

They are the thing everyone loves to hate: finals. I mean, we hate them for the obvious reasons: hours and hours of studying, 100 question multiple choice tests and the overall associated anxiety. Of course finals force students to review what they have learned over the semester, but they do it in a way that can substantially lower the grade that a student worked an entire semester to achieve. I know I speak for most when I say that finals generally do not bring up grades, they either result in the same grade or often times, a lower one. The theory of the final exam is very important in testing a student's overall understanding of that semester's material, but the 20 percent weight they put on one's grade is just too much pressure to put on students. The school would be a better environment for students without finals, or a final exam with less pressure associated with it.



2014: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

2014 was a year forged in chaos and destruction. The world was ravaged by disease, war, tragedy and desolation. But as it always is, when mankind is beaten down, it will promptly rise and look to the future.

March 16: Crimea votes to join Russia

The Crimean Peninsula holds a referendum to leave Ukraine and join Russia. Following the Ukrainian Euromaiden protests of Nov. 2013, spurred on by the government's choice to strengthen ties with Russia rather than the European Union, Russian troops occupied the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea. The Supreme Council of Crimea held the referendum to reinstate the Crimean Constitution and rejoin Ukraine or become integrated into Russia. The official result was 96.77 percent in favor of joining Russia with an 83.1 percent voter turnout. The referendum was declared invalid by the United Nations 11 days later on March 27. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the annexation treaty on March 18 and Crimea was absorbed into Russia.



July 8: Germany beats Brazil in a record breaking match

The German team that would become the World Cup champion obliterates the host country of Brazil by a margin of 7-1. The 20th FIFA World Cup, hosted by Brazil, captivated the attention of the entire world. Over 32 days, 64 matches were played in 12 stadiums all over Brazil. The tournament produced many memorable moments, including Germany's 7-1 victory over Brazil and Tim Howard's 16 saves in Belgium's 2-1 victory over the United States, the most saves in the World Cup's recorded history. The final resulted in a 1-0 victory for Germany over Argentina with a goal in the 113th minute from German midfielder Mario Götze. Former World Cup champions Spain, Italy and England were eliminated in the Group Stage, allowing unexpected teams such as Colombia and Costa Rica to reach the Quarter Finals. The World Cup brought the world together as hundreds of millions tuned in to share in their love of soccer.



Aug. 9: Michael Brown is shot, causing racial tension

Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American man, was shot and killed by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri. Protests and riots broke out across America and a social movement continuing to this day began. Many believe the killing to be racially charged, an example of racial profiling in the police force. The unrest continued after a grand jury decided to not indict Officer Wilson. Media reports heavy police militarization in response to the protest. SWAT teams with rifles and armored vehicles lined the streets. Some demonstrations became violent and turned into riots, bringing criticism to the movements. Protests picked up again in November after Eric Garner, a 43-year-old African American man, was choked to death by a police officer in New York City. Officer Daniel Pantaleo put Garner into a chokehold while other officers restrained him after being arrested for selling loose cigarettes. The restraint exacerbated his asthma and Garner died in the hospital an hour later. The grand jury again decided to not indict Pantaleo, sparking further protests. Ferguson Protests, as they are now widely known, was a defining event of 2014 and many will look for lowered tension between police and minorities in 2015.



Aug. 19: American journalists executed by ISIS

American James Foley was beheaded on camera by insurgents in Iraq, bringing them to the forefront of global public attention. Since June, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Syria (known also as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the Islamic State) has been seizing large amounts of land in Iraq and Syria. ISIS, an extremist offshoot of al-Qaeda, wishes to unite all areas of the Islamic world. In June, they captured Kabul, the second largest city in Iraq. Amnesty International accused them of severe human rights violations. Among their crimes are the executions of American journalists James Foley and Stephen Sotloff and British aid worker Alan Henning. In September, the United States announced a multiple country effort to "degrade and ultimately destroy" ISIS. Airstrikes on ISIS controlled military bases began shortly afterward with assistance from Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.



Sept. 30: Ebola reaches America and creates havoc

The Center for Disease Control confirms Thomas Eric Duncan was the first person in America infected with Ebola, pushing an epidemic ravaging Africa for months since the beginning of the year. Countries in West Africa, most severely Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, were and continue to be ravaged by the Ebola Virus, the disease's worst outbreak in history. As of Jan. 2, 2015, Ebola has claimed the lives of 7,989 individuals in the three previously mentioned countries according to the CDC. Ebola has up to a 90 percent fatality rate when contracted according to the World Health Organization. It is not a situation without hope, however. Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders, or MSF) has treated around 4,400 patients confirmed to have Ebola, with nearly 1,900 of them surviving. Over 600 isolation beds and seven Ebola case management centers have been established by MSF. Human trials are progressing on two possible Ebola vaccines. The situation is improving, but the complete eradication of Ebola may be far off.

Maya Angelou died on **May 28, 2014** at 86 years old of natural causes. She was an American author, poet, actress and singer. She is most known for her autobiographical memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* as well as her work in the Civil Rights Movement.



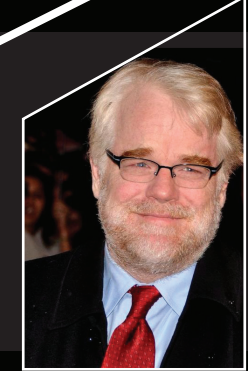
Sept. 22: Hong Kong citizens take to the streets

Protesters gathered outside the Hong Kong Government headquarters to oppose the decision handed down by the Central Chinese Government. The announcement that nominations of candidates by the people to the Hong Kong Legislative Council, the board of lawmakers in Hong Kong, would be disallowed. This left only candidates nominated by the Central Chinese government, challenging the limited autonomy Hong Kong enjoys and sparking demonstrations throughout the region. Known widely as the Umbrella Protests, named for the umbrellas the protesters held, the demonstration opposes the control that the Communist Party of China holds over the partially democratic Hong Kong. Although the citizens are allowed to elect leaders to the Legislative Council, the candidates are subject to confirmation by the central government. The protests, largely student led, are entirely nonviolent and evolved into pro-democracy demonstrations calling for a full democratic system in Hong Kong independent of the central government. The number of concurrent protesters peaked at 100,000. The police met protesters with tear gas, eventually bringing the protests to an end on Dec. 15, 2014.



Deaths:

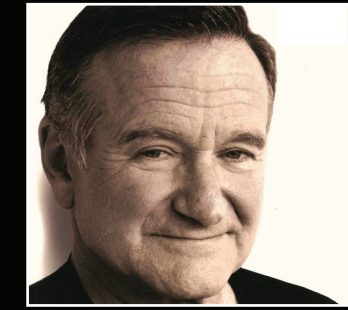
Philip Seymour Hoffman died, age 46, on **Feb. 2, 2014** of a heroin overdose. He was an Academy Award winning actor most known for his roles in *Capote*, *The Hunger Games* and *Charlie Wilson's War*. The *New York Times* called Hoffman "perhaps the most ambitious and widely admired American actor of his generation."



Shirley Temple, 85, died on **Feb. 10, 2014** of natural causes. She was a renowned child actor, known for her roles in *Heidi*, *Curly Top* and *Bright Eyes*. As an adult, she served as the United States ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia, later becoming Chief of Protocol of the United States.



Robin Williams died on **Aug. 11, 2014** from suicide aged 63. He was a beloved comedy actor known for leading roles in *Good Will Hunting*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Hook*, *Aladdin* and *Jumanji*. His death has affected millions throughout the world, with Google reporting his name as the most searched term of 2014.



Richard Attenborough died on **Aug. 24, 2014** at the age of 90 of natural causes. He was an English actor and director known best for his roles in *Jurassic Park* and *Miracle on 34th Street* and as director and producer of *Gandhi*. He was the President of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.



Joan Rivers, 81, died on **Sept. 4, 2014** of serious complications related to a minor throat operation. She was an American comedian noted for her satirical and often self-deprecating humor. In the *New York Times*, television critic Jack Gould, said Rivers was "quite possibly the most intuitively funny woman alive."



In the wake of the hardship sustained by the world in this past year, humanity looks forward to 2015 and the new beginnings it brings. It was not an easy year, but as it always does, mankind will rise again, stronger than ever.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

A splash of color in the

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

In the past five years, Detroit has been ranked one of the most dangerous cities in the nation. If one takes a drive south bound on Woodward Avenue, they will find their surroundings devolve from a suburban, lively area covered in a plethora of freshly built houses to an urban, dilapidated city with buildings teeming at the seams.

Some may say that Detroit is decaying due to the amount of abandoned buildings and the destruction of these homes. However, what many do not witness are the rather beautiful areas of Detroit, including Midtown, Belle Isle or even some of the shut-down industrial buildings. Not only have some of these warehouses been converted into art studios, but they are also covered in mesmerizing graffiti. When these locations began developing as sanctuaries for local artists, it was viewed as acts of vandalism rather than an alternative to making a building that was decomposing into a showcase for something captivating and alluring.

After the financial collapse in 2010, approximately 20 percent of Detroit's residential housing was either demolished or was scheduled for destruction. However, the remaining residents chose to begin a movement to bring beauty back to the city. Graffiti has become an important art form that has turned the dark, crumbling buildings in the largely abandoned Motor City into a visual display of hope. This movement known as the 'Detroit Beautification Project' has attracted many local artists and given them a blank canvas with which to work. While some critics debate over the authenticity of graffiti as a form of art, most believe, including historians, that it is one of the oldest forms of art. "While all graffiti is illegal, and freedom of expression is not, art holds a

purpose. Art is the most powerful form of symbolism humans have, and it should not be abused or unattractive. Take each piece of graffiti as you will, but keep an open mind and be respectful," senior Andrea Hauser said.

While graffiti is usually classified as vandalism and associated with criminal behavior, these stereotypes have been broken by many of the artists that portray their work on Detroit buildings. Some of the graffiti work in Detroit is created by formally educated and trained artists who have their work on display in museums. While some were skeptical of the notion at first, the graffiti ended up attracting people from all walks of life. From those in their late teens to early 20s, to the kids from the suburbs to the hardcore Detroit-lifers, to artists from all over the world, the artist community is making Detroit look alive again. According to an interview with *Mint Press News*, Sharon Matt Atkins, managing curator of Exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum said, "[what is] particularly alluring about graffiti is that the audience has the ability to look at a piece and then speak with the artists." The city that was once decaying has transformed into an inspirational space for the most talented artists locally and globally.

This unorthodox movement has not only brought to light the beauty that still remains in Detroit, but also the talent that the people from this city possess and use this talent to share it with the world. The effect that the graffiti has on the city and its resurrection is still to be seen, but by the looks of it, Detroit is colored in life again.



Detroit: an evolving city

Miles Berlin '18, Co-Business and Ad

In 2013, Detroit began the process of filing for bankruptcy. This would entitle the city to less tax expenses and more benefits from the federal government. The last city on record to declare bankruptcy was Jefferson County in Alabama. The benefits Jefferson County received due to their strikingly bad economy were around four million dollars, yet Detroit received between 18 and 20 million dollars. Ever since Detroit filed for bankruptcy a year ago, the city has most definitely prospered from the benefits. Due to its new wealth, companies and restaurants of all sorts have made a name for themselves in Detroit.

A rapidly growing company in Detroit is Shinola. Shinola makes watches, bikes and leather goods. It may sound like an odd assortment of goods, but it seems to be working. The owners of Shinola believed that Detroit was a perfect place for their business. There are multiple factories, one for bicycles, one for watches, and one for leather goods. The main factory headquarters in Detroit is located on West Milwaukee Street. It is in a building formerly known as the Argonaut Building. It is a large complex that was originally built as a workshop for General Motors; in 2007, GM donated the building to the College for Creative Studies. Then, in early 2013, Shinola bought the top part of the building and turned it into their own headquarters. The main Detroit store is located on West Canfield street, which is near the DIA and the Wayne State School of Medicine.

Specific newspapers and websites have been talking about all of the thriving, delicious and blossoming restaurants in Detroit. *Thrillist* is a food blog that writes about foods based in certain cities. It uses one's location and provides news about and recommendations of good restaurants. Since they write about foods in cities all over the country, it seemed proper to reveal their favorite cities. They published an article of their top 40 favorite cities to eat in, and Detroit was rated 14, higher than Miami, Dallas, Las Vegas and many other cities that are much larger. This ranking is also impressive because Detroit was ranked in the same range as New York, Chicago and New Orleans. In the review, Lafayette and American Coney Island were mentioned, and they discussed how little restaurants like that could draw in such a large crowd. *Thrillist* also said, "If Detroit were half its original size, it would be the most dense and rich food scene in the world." This demonstrates how many different types of restaurants this city has to offer.

When looking for a spot to which to travel, or when trying to come to a conclusion about where to eat, try and stay in the city and see the amazing shops and restaurants that Detroit has to offer to help support the growing economy, and keep it climbing.



BUFFALO WILD WINGS comes to Royal Oak

Justin Flood '17, Circulation Manager

Buffalo Wild Wings has found its way to Royal Oak. The establishment, which was previously located in Ferndale, is going to be only seven minutes away from Berkley High School. The restaurant is highly regarded for its famous array of sauces, starting from the mildest, most tangy sauce, to a sauce so hot only a few can handle. Sophomore Dana McDowell said, "When I heard the news, I shed a tear of joy." The tasty traditional or boneless wings are best enjoyed while watching a multitude sports featured on one of the many big screens in the restaurant.

The effect of the move will certainly drive plenty BHS students into the restaurant to enjoy promos such as Boneless Thursday or Wing Tuesday. Senior Jake Bills said, "How could anyone not like it? The food is great and they have hot waitresses." As students arrive into the new hotspot, the business will continue to thrive at the new location.

Buffalo Wild Wings, also known as, "BW3" or "Bdubs," will look to sell their location in Ferndale in the big move. This makes many students wonder who the BW3 will attract because of the joy it brought to the community of Ferndale. "I'm excited about being able to go at lunch, but I'm worried about it being so full," Bills said. The main problem seems to be timing, but students will definitely take the risk in order to satisfy their cravings at lunch.

Whether it is for lunch or on a busy weekend night, Bdubs satisfies at all times. Hitting the spot at lunchtime, while giving students' an atmosphere that makes them forget about school, fits perfectly to the student's priorities. This new attraction will be instantly popular to teachers, students and the community. Although the move has been approved, the Bdubs owners have not yet given a specific date as to when the move will be finalized and ready for us to eat at. As for now, we just have to wait until the big day finally arrives.



Photos courtesy of Pinterest

Fashions: back from the past

Annie Silver '17, Co-Assistant photo editor

The 21st century's clothing looks are new and improved, but in reality the old is the new. Fashionistas of southeast Michigan have not really evolved into a fresh looking type of style, but rather brought back styles from the past and made it their own.

Trends fall in and out of style as often as teenage girls' mood swings. If one holds on to something long enough, it will eventually pop back up like an old boyfriend, somewhere in another era. This generation went back through time and brought back styles from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s up into today.

70s

Flashback to the 70s, imagine ones parents sneaking out the side door wearing cigarette jeans while rock'n their favorite fringe jacket, a tube top and the coolest pair of platform shoes in their closet. Now people have taken bits and pieces from their parents' horrendous style choices and made them into fashion forward trends including tube tops, cigarette jeans, and platform shoes.



80s

It's the 80s; imagine a mom at the gym listening to Madonna's hit song, "Like a Prayer" working up a sweat in her purple leotard, crop top, and fluorescent scrunchie, while sporting her favorite pair of Doc Martens. Whoa, what a sight. Okay, people are not walking around in a purple leotard but crop tops, scrunchies and Doc Martens are definitely in style now.



90s

Jump to the 90s. Parents now have children and high fashion trends have been transferred from parents to young people in their twenties. At this point, parents have started dressing in "typical parent apparel." Now picture a hip 25-year-old aunt named Jessica in line for the Backstreet Boys concert. Her hair is perfectly crimped to fit into her side pony and just high enough to show off her new black choker necklace to pull off the perfect grunge look.



Photos courtesy of Pinterest and Polyvore

"Today we see all different types of styles and looks that make for a really interesting era of fashion. We are constantly looking at the past present and future," junior Lily Cohen said. People have taken a number of these looks and brought them back into 2015 to make them seem hip and cool. Our generation of style is now a mix of the 70s, 80s, and the 90s.

14 THE SPECTATOR

Grieving students unite: BHS comes together in times of need

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Grief and pain are feelings everyone deals with at some point or another in their lifetime. It drastically alters one's perspective on every aspect of life, big and small. One in this position wishes for nothing more than for there to be a way to just press pause in order to cope with the severity of the matter. Sadly, life carries on and the world keeps turning because death and its repercussions happen every day, all around the world, and is something beyond anyone's control.

Even here at BHS, these horrible events and emotions are affecting individuals among the students and staff, regardless of if everyone or no one knows about the matter. Luckily, the BHS student body, staff, and community act as one giant support system and family to those who unfortunately have gone through, or are going through, the loss of someone near and dear to them. Junior Gabe Blatz said, "Everyone opened their arms to me when I came back after my brother passed away." Such a positive response to such a negative situation makes a significant difference in the grieving process after losing a loved one. She was not the only one, however, that was taken back with such care. I, too, was welcomed back with nothing but kind words and endless support from my peers and teachers here at BHS. The encouragement received from everyone can make dealing with such a tragic event much more bearable.

Everyone handles grief in their own way. It can be anything from isolating one's self, getting a tattoo, or denying the reality of the loss. BHS guidance counselor Robyn Weiss said, "What I have learned over the years as a school counselor is that there is not a 'one-size-fits-all' grieving process." Every person is different, and the way everyone chooses to handle the loss is unique. Blatz said, regarding her way of dealing with her grief, "I have no regrets about getting the memorial tattoo for my brother. It is my way of remembering him in a positive light." This is a creative coping method in which she

turned a negative situation into a beautiful piece of art that serves as a permanent reminder of all the happy memories she shared with him. Similar to Gabe, I am getting a tattoo memorializing the passing of my sister. It is a reminder that can be with us wherever we go, that they are in a better place and that their memory will forever be with us.

Nothing and no one can completely take away the pain that follows the loss of a loved one, but actions and words make a world of a difference. Thankfully, BHS is a safe, supportive and compassionate environment allowing those in such distress to have some piece of mind. Weiss added, "At Berkley High School, the counselors support students in a variety of ways when they lose someone they love." Giving extra time for school work, extra one on one time to catch up, positive words of sympathy and immense generosity are just a few ways BHS helps out those dealing with death.

Unfortunately, such a tragedy, no matter the amount of help given to them, can push one to fall into a type of depression. When people arrive on the embankment of depression, the shores are dark, the sky is gray and the setting sunset on the horizon brings nothing but an ill feeling of unease. No one wishes for this to happen to themselves, or to anyone else for that matter. In the end it does anyways and you can either let it destroy you or come out a stronger, wiser individual. There is a light at the end of this seemingly never ending tunnel. It is not impossible to feel normal again. It is also entirely possible to get over the feelings of despair because even though the road to recovery is a long and hard one, the destination of happiness and relief is worth the climb to get there. Just find the strength within to keep pushing forward, take it day by day, and before you know it you will have reached recovery.



Gabe Blatz's tattoo is to honor her brother.

Photo courtesy of Gabe Blatz

The best you've never heard: music of 2014

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

WoodKid:

Yoann Lemoine, or better known by his stage name, Woodkid, has spent years behind the camera, producing music videos for the likes of Lana Del Ray, John Legend and Katy Perry. When he grabbed a microphone and stepped in front of the camera, his music was just as good as the videos he produced, if not better. While his music is classified in some strange genres, such as neo-folk, it is easily enjoyable for all. *The Golden Age*, his unique series of music videos directed by him to accompany his own music, are woven together to send a message that Woodkid hopes his music gets across to everybody. The child in him is unleashed in his songs, and in an interview with *Prime Time Russia*, he said, "I want people to feel like heroes when they hear my music." He accomplishes that in all of his songs. Going in to 2015, it will be interesting to see what videos he produces, for himself as well as for others, and the music he is going to release.

Spooky Black:

This 16-year-old rising star (also known by Lil' Spook and Corbin) is making a very popular and recently trendy sound all his own. Corbin is working hard to bring back a 90s R&B sound mixed with a spaced out reverb that is found in most of his songs but, his lyrics are where he separates himself. While some of his lyrics may seem cliché, his most recent single brings anger seen from very few artists, and it has sent him in the right direction. Corbin is about to blow up, already captivating individuals at Berkley High. Junior Zach Hobson described Corbin's voice as "angelic." Hobson added, "His music is something you could cry to." The emotions are ones that are hard to capture, and, even at 16, Corbin manages to do it. It would be wise to keep an eye on him as he is sure to get his fame soon.

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S.A.G.E: Students create club for equality

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

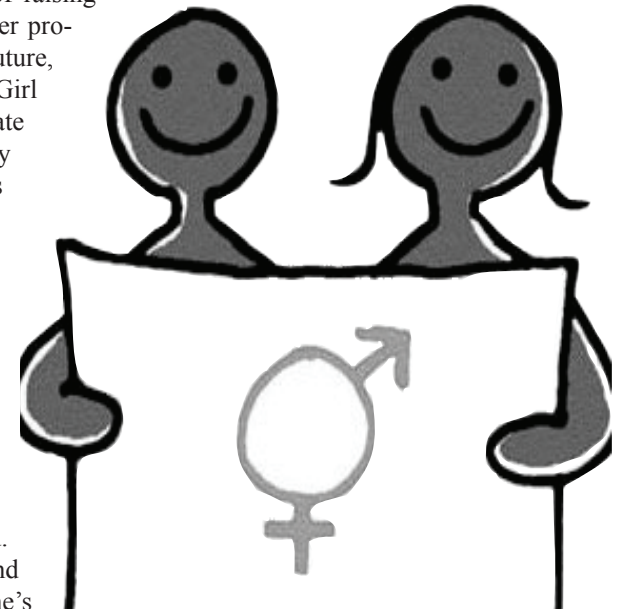
New to the BHS club scene is S.A.G.E, also known as Students Advocating Gender Equality. This unique club was started by junior Lauren Angel. Thanks to the BHS E2020 teacher Mr. Ron Fritz, who sponsors the newly founded club, students' passion for equal rights for all genders is allowed to be turned into a helpful and proactive organization. The group meets every Tuesday during lunch in the design studio and is open to any and all individuals, male or female. S.A.G.E is working towards improving on the historical and modern day issue of gaining equal treatment among men and women.

S.A.G.E may be viewed as a controversial club, but its true purpose is to create a forum for in-depth discussions about the treatment of women in the workforce, media and even here at BHS. They are not pulling a *Little Rascals* he-man women hater club in the sense of bashing and blaming men. In reality, they are just trying to bring the issues to light while attempting to lessen or erase the obstacles women deal with on a daily basis. Junior Hana Coon said, "S.A.G.E is an incredible medium for meeting people who feel the same way about these issues as I do, which is very refreshing for me, and I am sure for everyone involved as well."

Thus far, the program has already planned and executed a penny war and a much talked about bake sale in an effort to raise funds for local women's shelters. Both of these fundraisers occurred in December and were quite successful. The better known of the two was the widely discussed "wage gap" bake sale. Male staff and students paid \$1 for a treat opposed to the women of BHS who only had to pay 75 cents. S.A.G.E president junior Lauren Angel said, "The goal was not to start controversy, but to educate the Berkley community on the very real and prevalent issue of gender inequality."

Moving forward, the club plans to come up with new and creative methods of raising funds for women shelters and other pro-women organizations. In the near future, the clubs aims to work with local Girl Scout troops to inspire and motivate the young women to pursue any future of their choice, regardless of the obstacles they may face as females.

The basis of this club has added a new and interesting choice to the previous selection already available here at BHS. Feminism can be seen as a strong dislike for men, but at S.A.G.E they wish nothing more than for overall equality between the genders, no resentment intended. So don't be shy. If such a deep and passionate objective peaks one's interest, the club is welcoming all with open arms if they are willing or curious to try it out.



Battle of the Coney Islands

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor

The constant debate amongst students at BHS is where to go grab a bite to eat with friends. The answer comes down to the Coney Island franchises: Leo's and National. Although both restaurants have similar concepts, regulars of each have distinct opinions regarding their differences.



VS



National Coney Island is more of a family friendly environment, with a relaxing atmosphere that many people enjoy. Senior Kevin Kizy said, "The staff is so respectful and nice. Leo's does not have that great of service." Also, National tends to be quicker, usually less populated with students than Leo's, making the service available and attentive to customers' needs. Kizy continued, "At nighttime, Leo's is always jam packed [but at] National, you can just walk in, grab a seat and eat."

A disadvantage of National is the location on 12 mile, which is not terrible, but definitely not as accessible as Leo's in proximity to Berkley, located right in downtown Royal Oak. This is not an issue for most students at BHS, but for the underclassmen who cannot drive, it is.

It could be argued that Leo's is the more popular restaurant amongst the students at BHS due to its convenient location, which is close enough to get during lunch. However, both restaurants have a similar menu, although some think Leo's food comes out better than National's. Additionally, many students love the atmosphere of Leo's. Sophomore Emma Green said, "You know everybody there when you walk in."

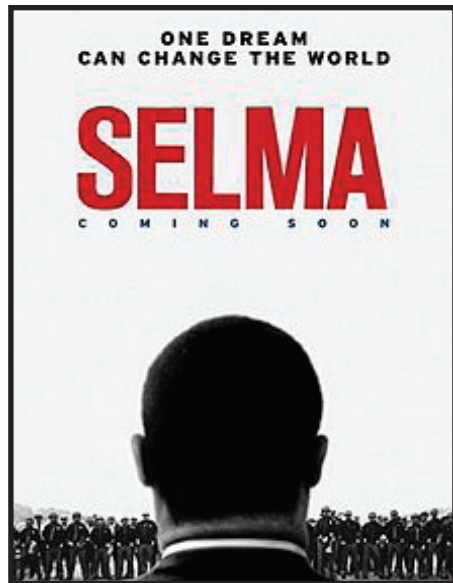
One fault of Leo's is that it is normally busy, due to its location in downtown Royal Oak, which usually has plenty of people walking around, looking for something to eat. So, while being in a populated area gets Leo's a lot of customers, it may also drive some away because of the perception of them always being too busy.

Overall, both restaurants have their pros and cons that many people value differently. Hopefully, the fighting between friends can end and everyone can have an open mind going to either of these popular restaurants.

16 THE SPECTATOR

Selma: A march to remember

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief



On Jan. 9, the film *Selma* debuted as a commemoration towards Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his leadership and involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. This inspirational story takes viewers back to the 1960s, during a time of racial divides and the beginning of a movement that would change the nation.

The movie gets the name *Selma* from what the story revolves around: a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in order to protest unequal voting rights in the black population. This dramatic biography is portrayed through the eyes of Dr. King, played by David Oyelowo, and highlights the three-month period in 1965 when he organized a protest to secure voting rights in the face of conflict. Throughout the film, famous faces appear like Oprah Winfrey, Tom Wilkinson and Carmen Ejogo, and each contributes to the rising action leading up the climax of the film: the march.

Selma differs from the typical historic film narrative because it strays from making the viewer feel as if they are witnessing a class lesson. Instead, it allows the viewer to be a fly on the wall as it shows King and his closest advisors in different situations leading

up to the famous march. By doing so, the audience feels as if they are a member of the movement and part of this epic change in history. The story leads all who watch to one of the most harrowing moments of the film: when everyone is prepared to march against the opposition of the local police and those who represent militant forces. The dramatic moments leading up to this part of history culminates in this emotional scene.

Unlike the other “against all odds” films, this movie shared the shocking hardships that Director Ava DuVernays revealed throughout the true story of how the visionary leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prompted change and how he helped to alter history permanently.



A still showing the famous march.

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia Commons and IMDb

This year in the limelight

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor and Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

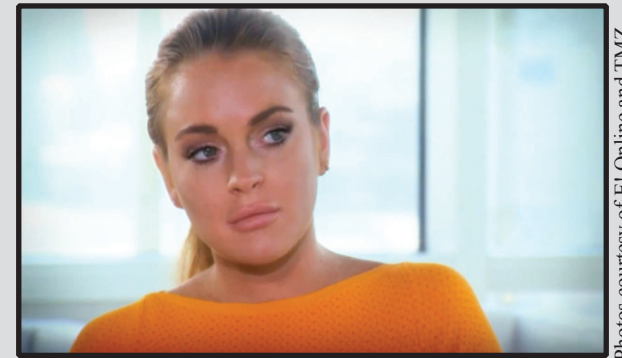
The spotlight- something all celebrities yearn to be in for as long as possible. From the drama on the big screen to the heartbreak and happiness in the real world, celebrities' lives are always entertaining. After 2014 came to a close, the celebrity gossip news did not end with it. We, as entertainment correspondents on the *Spectator*, have put together an array of predictions for the lives of this year's most watched celebrities.

**The Kardashian Family**

Wrapping up a season of Kourtney and *Khloe Take the Hamptons* in early January, the family will reunite in their hometown of Calabasas, California. Kardashian fans can only hope for the best in all of their family affairs. However, since history tends to repeat itself, maintaining peace in the family is unlikely. Khloe will be on and off with French Montana, until it reaches the point where marriage is the obvious solution to all of their relationship issues. Since Khloe is ‘Klassier’ than Kim, this marriage will last a whopping 73 days, a whole day longer than Kim and Chris Humphries. And guess what? Kourtney and Scott will inevitably be expecting their fourth and fifth children. After being successful in every industry besides music, Kim will decide to drop something other than her booty, but a hardcore rap album featuring her hubby, Kayne. The future holds a dramatic year for the Kardashians, and hopefully an entertaining one for the viewer.

**Selieber? Justina?**

As 2015 progresses, the status of Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez will become increasingly more complicated. Due to Biebs' teepeeing of the White House in March of 2015, the government will finally come to their senses and deport Bieber back to Canada. Selena's beloved 'Baby,' will be back in his home country, causing her to follow him into Canada and officially become a Canadian citizen (Eh!). However, their relationship will continue to be as dramatic and annoying as it was in the U.S. The heart wrenching songs about one another such as, “*Heart Wants What it Wants*,” will finally reach Canada, a year later, when Selena is at her breaking point. Hearing the song for the millionth time will cause her to break ties with the King Belieber for good. She will then return to her home state of Texas, never to be heard from again. The year of 2015 will be the official end of Selieber.

**Lindsay Lohan**

After a long 2014, our favorite troubled actress is out of the Big House once again, but not for long. This once lovable actress who portrayed a set of twins in *The Parent Trap*, a rebellious teen in *Freaky Friday* and a plastic in *Mean Girls* will attempt to redeem herself in the new original Disney Channel movie, *The Parent Trap: All Grown Up*. Due to the tremendous failure of the movie, LiLo will relapse into her old alcoholic ways and will end up streaking down Hollywood Boulevard. After being arrested for public nudity, she will be found to be in possession of \$100,000 worth of stolen Botox solution. This will land Lindz her very own glamorous orange jumpsuit, with our favorite convict, Piper. Even though in 2015 Lindsay will be heading back to jail, she will have no RAGRETS.

Photos courtesy of E! Online and TMZ

Refs controlling the game

Drew Leshman '17, Hot or Not Editor

Referees. Can't live with them, can't live without them. Either way, the constant interference by refs is making sporting events more and more painful to watch, and it does not take a sports fanatic to notice.

Watching sports are a time to sit back, relax and enjoy the day. However, with constant whistles and questionable calls, it is becoming increasingly hard to do just that. Sophomore Adam Cohn said, "The game flows the way the ref calls it. If they call so much on one play, then the team has to work their way around that." Nowadays, too many games in the sports world are being decided by the referees and not by the players.

On Jan. 4, 2015, a historically important day for the Motor City, the Detroit Lions played their wild card playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys. The Lions seemed to be in control of the game, when a questionable defensive pass interference call was made in favor of the Lions, but then moments later it was taken back by the referees. It seemed to be a clear pass interference to everyone watching, so why was the flag picked up? Was it to make it more of an interesting game to watch, or was the Vice President of Officiating too busy partying on Cowboys' owner, Jerry Jones' party bus? Nobody knows, and nobody will ever know, but what people do know is that the refs changed that game dramatically, by simply reversing a correct call.

Of course it is not entirely the refs' fault. As the Lions could not come up with the victory that day and advance to the next round, many fans argue that it was more of the players' fault than the refs. "We scored three points in the second half, so that falls on the players," senior Jack Wise said. Since there was still eight minutes left in the game, fans say that there was plenty of time for the Lions to take control of the game once again. Players need to learn to overcome the refs and play through them. There is simply nothing the teams can do about it when they disagree with a call, besides play on. However, fans would like to see a big improvement on the way referees call games in the near future.

The refs' decisions can sometimes be seen as mind boggling, and often a little suspicious. Especially when the whole country sees an obvious call, but the referee who is on the field does not see it. Or, he sees it and simply decides not to call it. Referees need to work together even more than they previously have been doing, to make it more of an enjoyable game to watch and play in.



Photo courtesy of Richard W. Rodriguez

The infamous non-call that may have cost the Lions the game at Dallas.

Tigers make bold offseason moves

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

With spring training looming, the Tigers are looking to finalize their squad going into the 2015 season. Since the final out of the World Series between the San Francisco Giants and Kansas City Royals, the Tigers organization has made 13 total transactions that directly affect the big league 25-man roster.

Oct. 31, 2014

Tigers waive outfielder Andy Dirks

With only two true outfielders under contract at the time, it was a mystery to Tigers' fans why they needed to waive Dirks at this time. Dirks looked like he would improve when given more reps in the Major Leagues, plus he is a left-handed hitter. Despite all this, after seeing the Tigers bring in two new outfielders, it became clear that this was the plan all along, and it seems like the move was warranted and smart after all.

Nov. 14, 2014

Tigers sign free agent Victor Martínez

Martínez was the Tigers' best hitter this year, and without him, the lineup would be missing a huge, middle of the order, slugger. Martínez allows everybody around him to see better pitches and could not be easily replaced.

Dec. 11, 2014

Cincinnati Reds trade Alfredo Simon to the Tigers for Eugenio Suarez and Jonathon Crawford

The Tigers needed to fill Porcello's rotation slot with a middle of the rotation pitcher. With shortstop José Iglesias coming back from injury this year and Romine still available as a potential plan B, Eugenio Suarez was just a prospect who did not have a lot of room for growth and was a good candidate to trade.



Although this move was not flashy, I think it clearly showed the Tigers' intentions for this offseason. Through this move the Tigers sent the message that they did not really care about the future after the next two or three seasons, and that they wanted to improve their defense. This was a great deal for the Tigers because Davis was a very average defensive center fielder last year (.992 fielding percentage and -1.4 Defensive WAR as a center fielder last year), and after this trade, the Tigers have three quality outfielders.

Toronto Blue Jays trade centerfielder Anthony Gose to Detroit Tigers for second baseman Devon Travis

Nov. 13, 2014

With this move the Tigers decided to splurge on the offense and give up some pitching. I like this move because Cespedes will not only bring a 25-home run bat to the middle of the lineup, but it will also help defensively. Although Porcello was a great pitcher entering his prime, Cespedes is also in his prime, plus the Tigers received two decent prospects.

Tigers trade Rick Porcello to the Boston Red Sox for Yoenis Cespedes, Alex Wilson and Gabe Speier

Dec. 11, 2014

Change for the college game

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

College football history was changed this year, as the first ever playoff system was put into place. The four teams finishing on top of the Associated Press (AP) ranks included Alabama, Oregon, Ohio State and Florida State. These teams participated in two semifinal games, both on New Year's Day, and the winners advanced to the national championship game on Monday, Jan. 12. The annual playoff series will consist of a six bowl-game rotation that switch off as the two semifinal games. This year's games consisted of the Rose Bowl which is located in Pasadena, California, and the Sugar Bowl, located in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Rose Bowl this year was between the number two seed Florida State Seminoles led by last year's Heisman winner quarterback Jameis Winston, and the number three seed Oregon Ducks, led by this year's Heisman winner Marcus Mariota. The game was anticipated to be a closer match than the result would have it, with the betting line in Vegas giving Oregon an 8.5 point spread. After a great showing from Oregon, Florida State ended up losing 52-20.

The Sugar Bowl, with the favored number one seed Alabama Crimson Tide playing against the number four seed Ohio State Buckeyes, came down to the very end of the game. The Buckeyes pulled out the upset win 42-35, as they went to meet the Oregon Ducks in the national championship game in Arlington, Texas.

The first playoff system of NCAA football has been deemed a success. The necessity

to earn multiple wins to come out victorious has college football fans across the country intrigued in teams that were not previously on their radar. "I really like it, it is a more efficient way of picking out the best team," sophomore Jonah Stern said. With four schools in the bracket, it gives all conferences and schools a legitimate shot at winning it all, instead of the consistent SEC dominance.

The national championship game between the Oregon Ducks and the Ohio State Buckeyes finished at a 52-20 blowout with Ohio State ending on top. Led by a brilliant performance from third string redshirt sophomore quarterback Cardale Jones, OSU brought the trophy back home to Columbus. After the win, Ohio State's head coach Urban Meyer stands at an incredible 38-3 record in three seasons with the Buckeyes, and joins Alabama head coach Nick Saban as one of two coaches in all of college football to win a national championship with multiple schools.

The current playoff system fixes many of the faults of the prior BCS system. With no playoffs in past years, it was very challenging for great teams and programs, with very successful seasons, to be a contender for the national championship.

In prior years, teams who lose just one game throughout the regular season or are not part of a power conference have limited ability to contend. With four spots striving for a crown, all with equal opportunity, it gives non-powerhouse schools a possibility to succeed in winning it all.



The new National Championship trophy now belongs to Ohio State.

A short tribute to Mr. Hockey

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor

Hockeytown is a nickname that many Detroiters hold sacred, as it validates our city as the hockey capital of the world. There is no doubt that without former Red Wings forward Gordie Howe, there would be no Hockeytown and the Red Wings would not be the franchise it is now. For over 25 years, Howe led the Red Wings to constant success, which earned him the nickname, Mr. Hockey.

Howe is considered to be one of the greatest hockey players of all time. He is alongside Oilers/Kings forward, Wayne Gretzky and Bruins defenseman, Bobby Orr. This great recognition is due to Howe having over 1,800 points in 1,767 games played, Mr. Hockey's number nine jersey was deservingly retired at Joe Louis Arena.

But Howe means so much more to the city of Detroit besides winning games on the ice. "[Howe] definitely had a huge part in making Hockeytown [what it is]," senior Gian Bonello said. He continued, "He [created] what is now one of the

greatest hockey dynasties." Mr. Hockey has left a tremendous legacy in Detroit.

Howe, at the age of 86, suffered a severe stroke on Oct. 26 while visiting his daughter in Texas. Originally, Howe's son Mark reported that his father's condition was improving rapidly, but recently, Mark says his father's health is not looking too good. Every one certainly hopes Mr. Hockey can come to a full recovery in the near future.



Howe's retired jersey at the Joe.

Photo courtesy of Gregory Shamus

ESPN, no longer the "Worldwide Leader in Sports"

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

ESPN, the "Worldwide Leader in Sports," was formerly just that, a front-runner in discussion and recap of professional sports. The program which was once a wonderful way to keep track of every team in the world has recently shifted into a distorted version of its former self.

The main problem that ESPN faces is the 24 hour sports cycle. The network starts with *First Take* where co-anchors Skip Bayless and Stephen A. Smith tackle the same tough questions that they have been facing since the show began in May 2007. Both anchors use little to zero evidence supporting their claims and the conversation usually ends with Bayless throwing an outlandish jab at a professional athlete, which is then followed by Smith's use of the word "blasphemous."

After, *Highly Questionable* pops up on the screen. This program's main issue is the host Papi. Papi is Dan Le Batard's father and is less than unqualified for the job. He yells his opinions into the mic passionately, but it is difficult to understand what he is saying somewhat due to English being his second language.

After all of that nonsense, the viewer is able to experience *SportsCenter*, the trademark of ESPN. *Complex* magazine conducted an experiment on ESPN's favoritism of teams and players and found that 30 percent of all coverage during the long baseball season is spent focusing on East coast teams like the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox alone. Then, *Complex* also found that 45 percent of the winter months are spent focused on the NFL instead of the NBA or NHL. It seems as though *SportsCenter* is now nothing more than a glorified highlight reel.

Fans of the ESPN are looking for word to a change in 2015. ESPN recently moved to a new studio, now based out of Los Angeles, with all new equipment to give viewers the best experience watching the network. "A new setup and base looks and feels refreshing so the network can only go up from here," junior Shane Mullane said.

ESPN has faced enough controversy and negative depictions in the past few years. With a few small changes the network can be put back into pristine condition much like when it first aired in September of 1979.

Feminists: if you're not one, you're wrong

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

In America, there are a lot of -isms. There is racism, terrorism, feminism, and many other ideologies and forms of thought. These -isms often bring out deeply rooted beliefs, and are often very controversial. -isms have their own way of dividing people like no other connotation of a word. As prominent as these words are in our society, there is almost never one consistent definition for them. Before I go any further, I will give you the dictionary.com definition of feminism to make sure we are all on the same page for the rest of the time.

Feminism [**fem-uh-niz-uh** m] (noun): the doctrine advocating social, political, and all other rights of women equal to those of men.

Now that you know that definition, ask yourself, are you a feminist? In the bottom of your heart, do you truly believe that if you are not born with male genitalia, you are inherently less of a person? Do you not deserve equal treatment if you do not have a Y chromosome? By simply being birthed a certain sex, you deserve less than someone else? If you answered no to these questions, I have some news for you. You, my friend, are a feminist, whether you like it or not.

Whenever something is given the suffix -ism, its goals are often misunderstood. Keeping this in mind, there are a lot of ambiguity about who a feminist is. Yes, a male can be a feminist, and in fact, you're reading something written by a male feminist himself. No, not every feminist is a lesbian. No, not every feminist protests by walking around naked. No, they do not automatically have bad hygiene. No, they're not out to avenge the history of women. A feminist, by definition, is someone who simply believes that men and women are equal.

Feminism has earned a negative reputation in this country because of the extremists. Here in America, rich, old, white men have brainwashed the population of the actual definition of feminism. These fear mongering tactics have proven successful, allowing misinformation to trump facts when it comes to feminism. This widespread miseducation about feminism has caused most citizens to be completely ignorant of who feminists are and what they want. Feminists do not want a male-enslaved world, they want equal pay for equal work. They do not want to eliminate all men, they want to make sure women are not forced into sexual activities against their will. They do not believe that female is the superior, they just want women to feel safe when walking on the street. These wants are obviously more than reasonable, and thankfully, our nation has began to take the first steps to become a feminist country.

President Obama's first law he signed was the Lily Ledbetter Act, promising women equal pay for equal work. The NFL has taken strides, running anti-sexual and domestic assault ads for about a month now. These changes are a good start, but as a nation, we are nowhere near where we need to be. Ideally, some genius would draw up a perfect bill that makes us all equal that everyone would love, and the feminist movement would be irrelevant. But since that seems unlikely and *very* far in the future, I have a solution for the time being. I move that, as a society, we end the ignorance towards feminism. Next time you hear someone bashing feminists, simply tell them the definition. If, after knowing the full definition they continue to be against feminism, ignore them. They are too stuck up to admit when they are wrong. People that are opposed to the feminist movement will be looked at in the same light as we look at people who were opposed to the freedom of the slaves oh so long ago. I can see it now, 100 years in the future, kids will say, "Wow, people were really used to think women were worse than men?" And the teacher will respond, "I know, it's hard to believe, isn't it?"

Anyone who already agreed with me or now agrees with me can stop reading here, this next section is for that 'special' form of ignorance. Obviously, I believe that everyone should be feminists, but men who are not feminists at least have a lack of overall interest on their side. However, women who are not feminists have absolutely no excuse. I honestly can say, that with all of my heart, #WomenAgainstFeminism is the most moronic and ignorant thing to ever trend on Twitter. #WomenAgainstFeminism would be like if (assume Twitter was around then for a minute) #SlavesAgainstLincoln trended following Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Women who are not feminists, please, for your own sake, be feminists. I try not to get angry at women who bash feminism because I generally feel bad for them. I don't believe there is one single woman who, deep in their heart, believes that they are inherently unequal. Bring those feelings to the surface. You don't have to become a super feminist, you don't even have to do anything apart from actively labeling yourself as a feminist. By labeling yourself a feminist, you have successfully championed ignorance.

The feminist predicament is very similar to many other religions/social rights groups. America's attitude towards Islam, racism and feminism are all remarkably similar. Some rich, white political elites have convinced the whole nation that all feminists are trying to enslave men, all Muslims are trying to destroy America and all blacks are scary and will hurt you. Guess what? All of these are completely false statements fueled by propaganda, and only reflect a minority extreme of each group. When you see any of these lies being promoted, understand them for what they are, lies. Smile politely and say, "actually, feminists just believe that men and women are equal" when someone tries to tell you feminism is wrong. If more people do that, the ignorance will end, and men and women alike will rejoice together, equally.

The not so popular opinion of popular culture

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

Pop culture, defined by Google, is "modern popular culture transmitted via mass media and aimed particularly at younger people." Whether or not the spread of "popular culture" benefits our society has been debated throughout each generation. However, both sides are normally not equally represented.

Most of the time someone will throw in the notion that, 'Pop culture promotes rebellious activity among the youth,' or 'We should be focusing on more important things like politics or news worthy events.' Those, along with other arguments to the same extent shut down the conversation before any valid pro-pop culture arguments can even be made. Because, who doesn't want a country full of well behaved teens or politically-focused citizens? But before coming to conclusions about the ideologies of pop culture we should all take a minute and reflect on the good that it has provided to a major part of society.

Pop culture is one of the biggest unifying tools that our country has. I do not hear people gossiping about the Grand Ole Opera or the ballet, but I do hear constant chatter about the Kardashian family along with many other controversies, drama, or gossip surrounding the celebrity world.

The love or hate for something that comes on TV or the radio is one of the things that brings the country together. Without pop culture and its effects of unification, we would all be a lot less connected. With no common interests, society's growth would be stunted because we would have nothing to relate to one another with. And without relations between individual communities, there would be no connections as a whole country. Of course, pop culture is not the only unifying tool, but considering that almost every American knows of something related to the pop culture sphere, whether it be the simplicity of being able to name celebrities or considering oneself a TMZ expert, pop culture connects a lot of different people.

I honestly cannot think of one person who has not had a conversation with someone about the Kardashians. It is truly baffling to see the levels of animosity that some people hold for this family that they only know from what they have heard through other news outlets, TV and radio shows, as well as specific websites, like TMZ or Gossip Girl that focus on the current pop culture news. It is even more interesting to hear from the people who are obsessed with them. I believe that this craze, for many, comes from being able to experience a different type of lifestyle through the Kardashians' program.

When watching, viewers are taken into the mindset and lavish life style of the Kardashian family. While watching, feelings of jealousy, intrigue and curiosity all surface as their lives contrasts so much to most of their viewers.

I believe that in turn, it creates a draw to be a part of their type of society. That is what makes Hollywood so appealing to so many. Not only do people aspiring to be screen writers, actors or reality stars want the fame and fortune, but they want to be part of something larger than themselves. They want to be part of our popular culture. They want to immerse themselves in the one thing that can almost connect everyone all over the world. Pop culture creates a need for relationships, and it inspires those looking to be part of something more.

This reasoning is the same for why we read the books we read in English class. It may seem like reading books that are up to around 2,000 years old is pointless, but it is not. We read them to learn and understand different societies in different periods of time in history.

As much as learning about the past is extremely important, we should be aware of what is currently important to mainstream society. If you were living in a world and had no connection to what everyone else was being entertained by there would be a great gap between you and everyone else. It would make it very hard to connect with anyone and create relationships that would further today's society. I think that it is almost more important to be able to understand the current society we live in now to continue to grow and prosper as a society.

Pop culture has an empowering effect as well. Because billions are connected through pop culture, it makes it easy for messages to be sent from influential people to the public. Some of these messages are obviously not the most morally upright to be spreading around the nation, however, there are just as many positive lessons being delivered through the use of pop culture as there are negative.

Beyoncé and the use of her music to convey messages of feminism is a prime example of pop culture spreading positive messages. Being the bright (and beautiful) woman that she is, she understands the position of power as an influential person of society, and recognizes that, "with great power, comes great responsibility."

Beyoncé creatively incorporates feminist views into her music, which listeners actually respond to because they do not have to read a 1,000 word rant on 'the benefits of feminism' to understand the main tenets that a true feminist regards as the most influential to her ideology. I personally will admit that Beyoncé has taught me the most about what feminists are really fighting for, and cleared up and misconceptions I had of their views from previous accounts. This further proves that these icons who use their power of influence in a positive manner can actually make a difference.

With celebrities like 'Bey' using pop culture as a tool to promote and further note-worthy causes, change will be achieved much more quickly. Another example of this is the ALS Ice-Bucket Challenge in which almost everyone, celebrities and regular people alike, participated.

Everyone dumping water over their heads and posting it to social media raised millions for the study of one of the most tragic diseases. However, without the help of many of the celebrities who have influence in the pop culture world, I do not think that the movement would have taken off the way it did.

I also have to speculate that our economy would be greatly harmed if pop culture did not exist. From TVs to iPhones, almost everything we use in our lives is a tool that helps us receive some sort of connection to pop culture. From what I learned in AP Econ, the economy is only as strong as the companies within it.

If no one were to need iPhones, or cable, then those major companies that contribute goods, services, and money to our economic system would be detrimentally harmed because they would not be making any money. As a result I would think that the economy would suffer.

And can you imagine a world without the entreatment of pop culture? For me, this is such a frightening thought. What would anyone talk about? There would be no celebrity gossip, TV shows, current music or any other forms of mass entertainment. Life would be so unfulfilling and boring.

As a whole, pop culture is a necessity to the survival of our nation. Of course, there are flaws in some of the material that is released to the public, but more good comes from pop culture than bad. Time and time again, people make the common misconception that inappropriate behavior and unhealthy habits can be gained from receiving messages shown through popular culture. As this could potentially be true, with conscious screening it could also be proven incorrect. Pop culture is an important contributor to modern society through many outlets that continuously affect the well being of our lives as a whole.