

# THE SPECTATOR

March 2015



Volume LXV • Issue VI



TO KILL A  
MOCKINGBIRD  
Harper Lee

Harper Lee Sequel  
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Cannon?  
Duffy?  
Waldman?  
Danaher?

Which teacher are you?  
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Band takes on New Orleans  
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# Ask Dr. Doctor Bennett

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

**What will be the last day when there will still be snow somewhere on the BHS property?**

I feel like it will flurry at least once more this winter. Probably the last day with snow on the property will be March 28. If you want a real educated guess, you may want to hit up aspiring meteorologist, senior Isaac Polanski.

**Who's better: the Lions or Tigers?**

As of now, the Tigers. I have to respect that the Tigers have been more consistent and have gone deeper in the playoffs over the last five years. That being said, a few years down the road it may be the other way around. The Lions seem to be on the way up, while the Tigers' best players are all over the hill.

**Costco or Sam's Club? Why?**

Costco, because I have never been to Sam's Club.

**What is worse, saying something and regretting it, or not saying anything and wondering what if?**

Saying something and wondering what if— because if you say something you believe in you can not blame yourself, but if you do not say it, it shows you are not proud of what you believe and are too weak to stand up for yourself.

**Is the glass half full or half empty?**

The glass is definitely half full. When I look at a glass I always look at how much is in the cup not out of it.

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

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

- 1 . The Baltic States
- 2 . Reversible belts
- 3 . Aardvarks
- 4 . Visors
- 5 . The Wii



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

Photo courtesy of Gimifab, The World Atlas and Joshua Stanley Images

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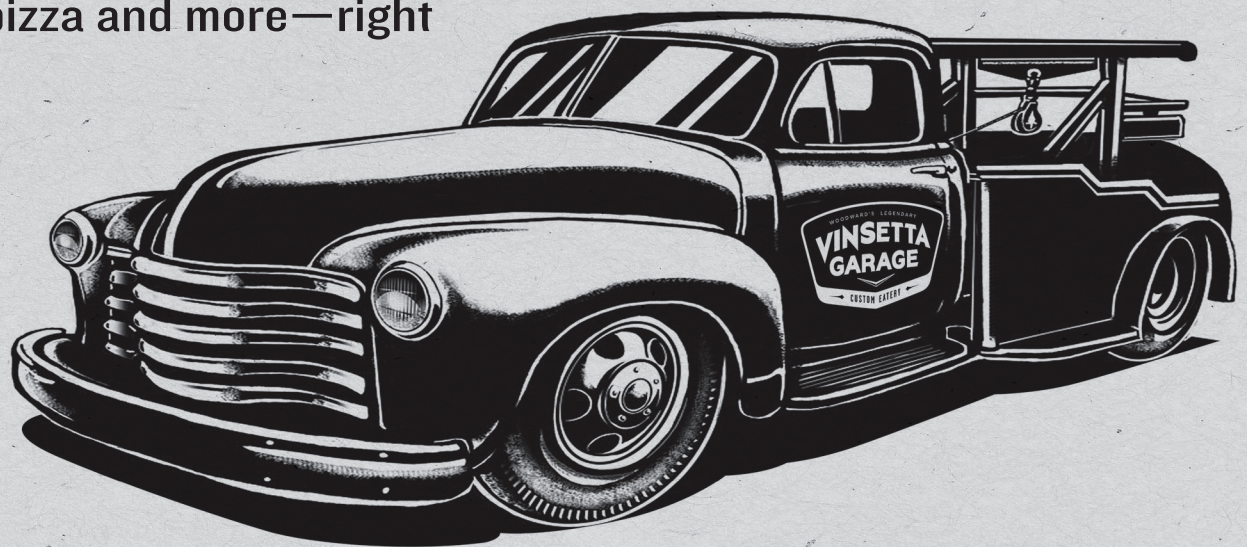
The *Spectator* Staff understands that some articles may not spark each student's interest, so we have organized a scavenger hunt for our beloved readers: look for Victor hidden within these pages. Once you do, bring your paper to Ms. Emily Mullins in room 165/116 and show her where he is! If you are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

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# Star Trek actor Leonard Nimoy dies at 83

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

Leonard Nimoy, most famous for his role as Mr. Spock in *Star Trek*, died on Feb. 27 at age 83 due to late stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The stoic and highly logical demeanor of Mr. Spock intrigued fans of the original series and six ensuing feature films of *Star Trek*. After *Star Trek*, Nimoy starred in the television series of *Mission: Impossible* and acted in theatre productions, including *Fiddler on the Roof*. Nimoy also directed the movies *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* and *Three Men and a Cradle*.

Mr. Spock was the origin of several cultural phenomena, most notably the Vulcan hand gesture and greeting, "Live Long and Prosper." Although *Star Trek: The Original Series* was cancelled after just three seasons, the show has continued to acquire a growing fanbase. Half-human, half-alien Mr. Spock, along with the equally memorable characters of Captain James T. Kirk (William Shatner), Mr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley), Sulu (George Takei) and Uhura (Nichelle Nichols), remains at the heart of its success. *Star Trek* had a tremendous cultural impact, becoming one of the most popular and easily recognizable science fiction franchises of all time. Nimoy's portrayal of Mr. Spock resonated with viewers, who could identify with his status as a social outcast whose Vulcan heritage set him apart from other

characters. In a statement from the White House, President Obama said of Nimoy, "Long before being nerdy was cool, there was Leonard Nimoy. Leonard was a lifelong lover of the arts and humanities... And of course, Leonard was Spock. Cool, logical, big-eared and level headed, the center of *Star Trek's* optimistic, inclusive vision of humanity's future."

In addition to acting, Nimoy created a volume of work, including books of photography and poetry. Nimoy wrote two autobiographies, titled "I Am Not Spock" (1977) and "I Am Spock" (1995). The titles of his books display Nimoy's identification with the character of Spock as well as his rich life beyond it. *Star Trek* co-star George Takei honored Nimoy in an interview with MSNBC. "The word extraordinary is often overused, but I think it's really appropriate for Leonard. He was an extraordinarily talented man, but he was also a very decent human being," Takei said.

Leonard Nimoy lived long and led a prosperous life. He entertained and informed through his acting and gave the world an incredible volume of other work. His final tweet summed up his extraordinary life well: "Life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. LLAP."



Photos courtesy of Flickr users Pineapples101, We Hope, Miyagawa and Gage Skidmore

## Inspection at cherry factory turns sour

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

A simple police investigation on Feb. 24 turned into tragedy with the strange and sudden suicide of a successful cherry company owner. Authorities had initially arrived at the Brooklyn factory to investigate the illegal dumping of cherry syrup and waste.

Arthur Mondella's company, Dell's Maraschino Cherries, is one of the largest maraschino cherry distributors in the United States, supplying to various popular restaurant chains including Chick-fil-A, T.G.I. Friday's and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Mondella cooperated very well with police for almost five hours, until an unusual discovery was made. Police started to pick up the faint smell of marijuana coming from behind a wall with "flimsy-looking" magnet shelving. According to the New York Post, after the wall was opened, the stench of weed was very prominent.

Shortly after this discovery, Mondella excused himself to his private bathroom where he took his own life with a licensed handgun. Just before his suicide, Mondella said, "take care of my kids" to his sister, Joanne Capece, who was present at the time.

Upon further search of the premises, police found over 80 pounds of marijuana, along with several collectible rare cars and hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash. Authorities are now considering that Mondella's cherry business was a possible cover for an illegal marijuana business.

As investigations continue, it is not certain as to whether or not police will seize the factory, even though Dell's was still operating the plant two days after the incident. A Brooklyn Judge ordered Dell's to pay out \$100,000 to distributor California Fruit Processors on March 3 in order to close up finances before anything else emerges.

\* Up to date as of press time March 19.

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# Detroit arson issue to be addressed

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

According to *The Detroit News*, last year the city of Detroit suffered from 3,839 suspicious fires which demolished nearly 3,500 city buildings. Arson has been a raging epidemic in Detroit for the last two decades. This hazardous and problematic matter has affected not only the city and its architecture, but also the families that reside in Detroit's inner neighborhoods. Over the years, little progress has been made to alleviate the issue. However, with more fires spreading through the city, a lack of firemen and funding for the Detroit Fire Department (DFD) and growing political turmoil surrounding the subject, change is now more likely to occur as the city begins to fully face its arson issue.

Few neighborhoods in the city have been able to remain untouched by fire and because of this, homeowner insurance in Detroit has nearly doubled compared to the state average. Last year, the city spent approximately \$3.5 million to demolish 247 homes that caught fire in the past few years. Not only has the city's infrastructure suffered, but human casualties have also been a result of the city's arson problem. It has been estimated that in 2014, a recorded 17 people died from hazardous fires. The human toll though is believed to be even higher as many deaths have been unable to be determined, due to the severity of the damage caused by the fires.

Out of all of these arson-related incidents, it is known that half occurred in occupied homes. However, Detroit's Arson Chief Charles Simmons, has released multiple statements saying that he feels the city is making progress in its lengthy struggle with arson. In an effort to help aid the issue, Chief Simmons and the rest of Detroit's Arson Committee (also known as the Arson Squad), have begun to remove vacant houses in the city to eliminate targets for future arson attacks. This year, the Arson Squad will be re-staffing and gaining four new arson investigators as the city's bankruptcy plans will free money to the cause, which previously endured extreme budget cuts within the last five years.

Altogether, Detroit still has the nation's highest arson rate. However, the total number of suspicious fires has declined by roughly 14 percent in 2014. A majority of these suspicious fires determined are thought to be fully intentional rather than accidental.

Mayor Mike Duggan, whose 2013 mayoral campaign was partially focused around Detroit's arson issue, in relation to his lobbying for the betterment and preservation of Detroit, plans to go on a demolition blitz during the 2015 year that will focus on six specific areas of the city. This effort will be funded by \$52 million in federal funds, which will expire by the end of this year. Along with that money, the city's overall bankruptcy settlement set aside \$440 million for blight removal of fire damaged homes and buildings. Nonetheless, the city will require an additional \$850 million to complete its overall demolition endeavors.

Though the city has incessantly struggled with problems concerning arson, it seems that actions are finally being taken to resolve the horrific issue. The city is on its way to various new policies and improvements to eliminate Detroit's arson problems, as progress ensues from all realms of society, politically and socially. Hopefully, with the demolition of the city's fire damaged structures, people will take greater pride in their city and join in on the efforts to rebuild the city and keep Detroit strong.

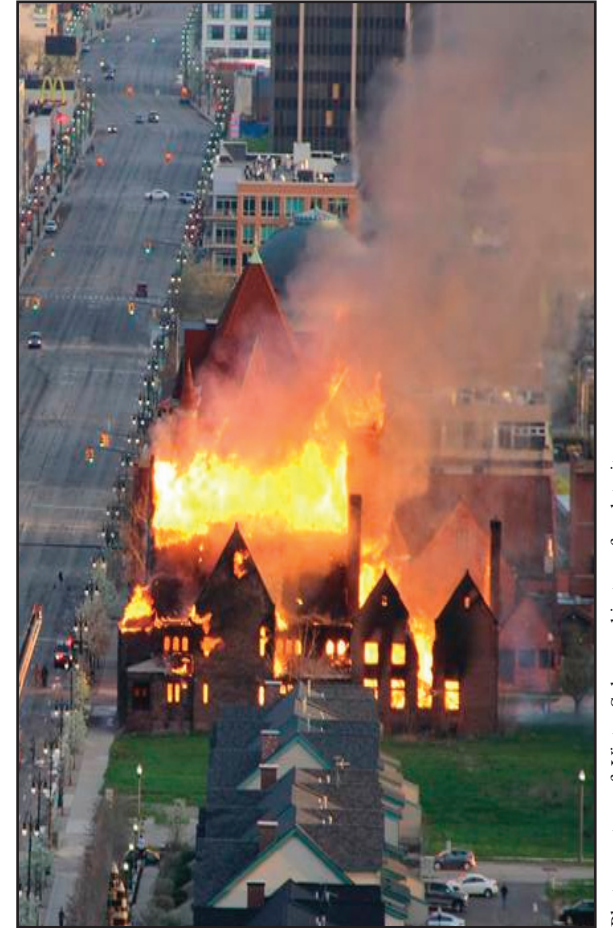


Photo courtesy of Victor Seborowski at my fox detroit

Last year the First Unitarian Church on Woodward burned down in a suspected arson incident.

## Harper Lee's new book, 55 years later

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

It has been 55 years since the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960. Since then, Harper Lee, the author, has remained rather dormant. But now, a manuscript of an earlier version of the unforgettable novel has surfaced, and *Go Set a Watchman*, the prequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, is expected to be released sometime in late July.

*Go Set a Watchman* is thought to be the original version of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but Harper Lee's publishers had rejected the book. Lee had to change the point of view from an older version of Scout to the younger one readers know and love today.

Sophomore Olivia Nave said, "I think it is cool, but a little weird being so long after her last book. I think I might read it though." Nave's hesitation is shared with others. Many are ecstatic about the new book's release, but there are also some with concern and doubt.

Mainly, the controversy is over why the book is coming out after being hidden well in a safe box for half a century. People believe that because Lee is 88 years old she was easily pressured by her family members and lawyers to release her second novel.

However, others believe that this release has no ulterior motives, and that it is a good thing that people are pressuring Lee to release it. Ms. Stacey Walters, an English teacher at BHS, said, "From someone who is such a great author, I think it's great that people want to read it and persuaded her to release it." Lee's new novel, *Go Set a Watchman* has stirred up a lot of both confusion and anticipation. Yet, it is easy to see that the world is excited for another potential classic written by Harper Lee.



Photo courtesy of celebrity network

Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* is expected to be a big seller when it is released.

# Returning to the stars once more

Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

The 1960s saw an era of incredible scientific advancement. On the 20th of July, 1969, just 66 years after the first sustained plane flight, mankind set foot on another world. There were five more manned moon missions, the last of which landed in 1972. Since, interest in space exploration has fallen on an international, and individual, scale. The prospect of leaving this world and travelling to another once brought a zeal for mankind's collective potential. Exploration is humanity's way; it is for that reason attention must return to the skies.

Exploration inevitably spurs on technological advancement. Water purification systems, memory foam, invisible braces and ear thermometers were all created with technology originally developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). With the amount of attention and funding given to space programs currently, it will be impossible for the U.S. and the world as a whole to advance as quickly as it has in previous years. With future space exploration necessitating increasingly intensive technology, the global community stands to benefit tremendously.

One of the factors contributing to the immense speed at which space technology advanced in the 1950s and 60s, from the launch of Sputnik in 1957, to the landing of Apollo 11 on the moon only 12 years later in 1969, was the presence of a tangible opponent. It was the two global superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, going to great lengths to defeat the other in the Space Race which made the progression of space exploration possible. After the Space Race ended and the Soviet Union collapsed, the U.S. no longer had an opponent with which to compete. Astrophysicist Neil Degrasse Tyson said, "Once we saw that Russia was not ready to land on the moon, we stopped going to the moon." Public interest in space travel has been declining ever since. If another world superpower began to explore space again, the U.S. may find renewed interest in space travel. "If the

Chinese would only kick it up a notch with their space program, it might force us to invest more," Advanced Earth and Space teacher Mr. Andy Bruen said.

Even if there were a modern Space Race, it is unlikely that NASA could do anything for lack of budget. The percentage of the U.S. budget allotted to NASA hit its peak in 1966, totalling 4.41 percent of the national budget. It now sits at an all time low of .48 percent of the national budget. It amounts to less than half a penny for each tax dollar. "[NASA] needs more money. That's a no brainer," Bruen continued. Activist organizations seek to increase the funding of NASA to 1 percent of the national budget, a change which would fund untold numbers of planned projects cancelled because of slashed budgets. "The \$850 billion bank bailout, that sum of money is greater than the entire 50-year running budget of NASA...you are removing the only thing that gives people something to dream about tomorrow," Tyson said. If the U.S. invested in its space program and took to the forefront of space exploration, other countries may soon follow suit and explore the incredible cosmos yet undiscovered.

Mankind has always looked forward, searching for another barrier to break through, but it is now standing still and turning back. If the next challenge is not met, and soon, humanity stands at a great risk of technological stagnation. Tyson emphasizes the point that without space travel, humanity has nowhere to move forward. He said, "Even if you're not a scientist, or a technologist, you will value that activity. And that, in the 21st century, are the foundations of tomorrow's economy. And without it, we might as well just slide back to the cave, because that's where we're headed, right now, broke." It has never been the way to cower or turn away when faced with a new challenge. If we as a world are not reaching forward, we are slumping backward. Backward is not where humanity belongs. Forward is where humanity belongs, and forward we must go.

*"Even if you're not a scientist, or a technologist, you will value [space exploration]. And that, in the 21st century, are the foundations of tomorrow's economy. And without it, we might as well just slide back to the cave, because that's where we're headed, right now, broke."*

-Neil deGrasse Tyson

# Modern day slavery: human trafficking must come to an end

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

While Earth is an amazing place, full of miracles and great people, there are many major flaws to the way humans treat one another. Vital issues cannot be resolved unless people are aware of the issue, and then people can get to the root of the problem. For example, human trafficking has become a major worldwide dilemma, and not enough has been done to help resolve this.

By definition, human trafficking is "the illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation." People are kidnapped and manipulated into selling themselves for sex or labor out of fear, due to brutal threats and mental/physical abuse. It is vital to be aware of the facts regarding human trafficking in order to be able to help end these types of occurrences around the world, and to alter the destiny of the people who may be affected by and abused in this horrific 'business' in the future.

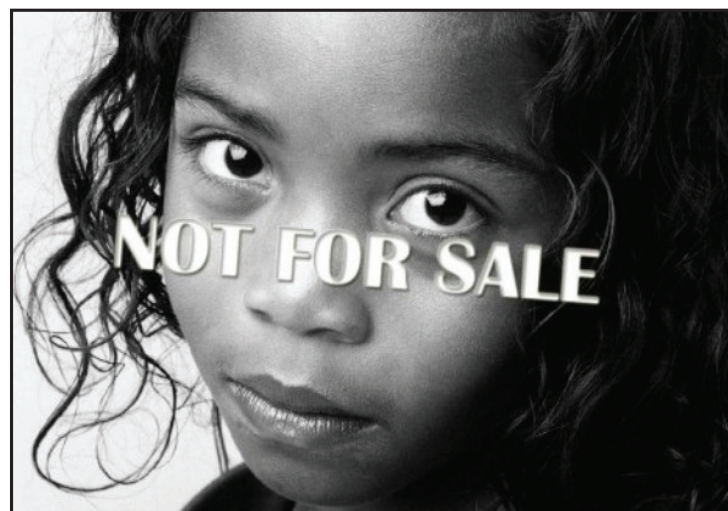
The victims of human trafficking are not limited to people of lower classes or even girls, as one may assume. The most common trait amongst the victims is their state of vulnerability, whether economically, socially or mentally. There is not usually a common pattern regarding their level of education, race or any sort of demographic. Some of the people who are taken into work are mere adolescents who have run away from home. People who have been domestically abused, sexually assaulted or have been in a war are often times the type of people that human traffickers like to target.

In order to put an end to human trafficking, people need to be aware of how to avoid being a victim and how to help those who have already been manipulated to being apart of the system. There are organizations, such as The Project to End Human Trafficking, where people dedicate their time to resolving this major human dilemma. The foundation tries their

best to raise awareness, and raise money to make sure human trafficking comes to an end. They have put on over 500 training systems in order to help people identify either a human trafficker, or a victim. There are certain questions that can be asked in order to make sure that those in trouble are safe. For more information how to help the cause, go to [www.endhumantrafficking.org](http://www.endhumantrafficking.org)

Human trafficking deprives people of the most basic human rights, like the freedom to make their own decisions. Victims are petrified with fear that they will be hurt, or because they have already been mentally abused to such an extent, that they are not able to escape the system. Most people are oblivious to the extent that human trafficking is taking place, even in the United States. Human trafficking victims are being stripped of their individuality, and being treated as if they do not matter. No human should be subjected to this type of mental and/or physical abuse.

Human trafficking is a global issue affecting tens of millions in the world today. If there is to be a equal and secure global community, society needs to do everything in its power in order to end human trafficking as soon as possible.



Human trafficking is a problem which plagues much of the modern world.

Photo courtesy of NPR

# the T RNIP

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## Disgruntled white boy wonders why he cannot say N-word

Lauren Schandavel '15, Freelance Writer

Authorities were alerted late last night of an incident involving a local teen reportedly using racial slurs while conversing with his white friends. The perpetrator, who is described as being “a blinding shade of white,” is thought to have been wearing a polo shirt with khaki pants and boat shoes at the time of the occurrence.

“As of right now, we have no leads that would indicate why a kid this white would be motivated to use this kind of language,” an officer who appeared at the scene of the crime to question witnesses said. “Although we did find some Cheif Keef in his iTunes library, we will have to investigate further before drawing any conclusions.”

When asked to comment, the boy became defensive, citing a Kanye West concert he attended last year as justification for his actions. “I just don’t understand,” he said through muffled sobs, “I’m not racist. I actually think it’s racist that white people can’t say the word. When have white people ever kept black people from doing anything?”

While the investigation is ongoing, detectives have noted that the suspect’s claim on social media to have been “born and raised on the streets of Detroit,” which stands



Photo by Zoe Blake

He just doesn’t see what all the commotion about.

in stark contrast to his upper-middle class background, as does his residence in the suburb of Huntington Woods. “We receive so many cases of appropriation each year,” the head of the prosecution team explained. “This boy is no different from the millions of privileged young, white people who adopt the behaviors and traditions of various cultures without any regard for the people they are emulating. Denying someone access to a word that has been used for centuries to degrade, demonize and devalue an entire group of people is not a double standard, and if the suspect believes that it is, then he must lack the common sense required to fully understand the implications of its usage.”

In lieu of recent events involving white teenagers using racial slurs, both the NAACP and the ACLU have issued statements regarding the incident in the form of a collective exasperated sigh. The hearing is scheduled for mid-May, and the suspect will be attending a U.S. history class, as well as an African American studies class, in the meantime.

## The Kanyutterfly Effect: changing the course of history

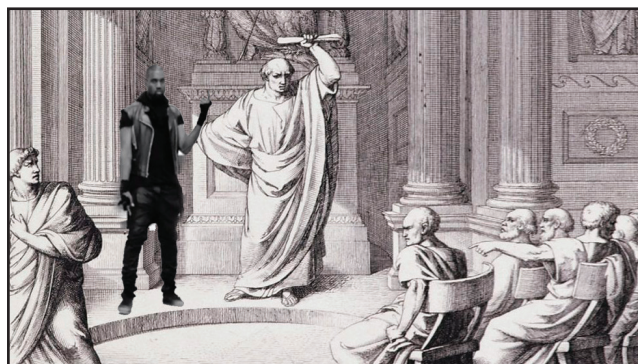
Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

The human race has been around for seven million years. For every one of those years, discoveries, speeches and defining moments have made humans the intelligent and generally decent creature that we are today. The people, places and things that humans everywhere enjoy could be very unlike how they are today if certain events had gone differently in the past. Kanye West has interrupted events such as the VMA’s back in 2009 and the Grammys this year, and it may be safe to say that if Kanye had lived during a different time period, our lives could differ completely.

**Washington D.C., Mar. 4, 1933-** On this day, hoards of people gathered to view what would be the last presidential inauguration when Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered one of the most powerful speeches in American history. As FDR starts his speech, he says the beginning of the line that would resonate through time, the line that would give Americans hope through the Great Depression. However, much to his surprise, he was cut off by the words that would start a new age in American history. “Wait, wait, wait, Now Franklin, Imma let you finish, but Herbert Hoover was one of the best presidents of all time.” Kanye West, an emerging poet at the time, had ventured on stage after fighting through racial barriers and the Secret Service, and had managed to stop the speech as quickly as it had begun. There was a second of silence, but after that deafening lack of sound, the crowd roared. As West left the stage, he was greeted by hugs and praise from all races alike. Roosevelt would be recalled, and Hoover would be elected. Unfortunately, he was not good for the times, as he would make a bill to rename all cities in America to be “Hooverville.” America never emerged from the Depression and would

eventually be annexed by Canada.

**A long time from now, in a galaxy not so far away-** Fifty years from now, Kanye will be an old man, and laying on his Kanye Nest of Versace sheets and Gucci pillows, he will have one request. He will wish to be sent back to the times of Julius Caesar, and he gets his wish. Kanye was sent through time in a time machine. When he arrived, Caesar was establishing the rules of time, but Kanye had other plans for Rome. Before Caesar had a



Photos courtesy of DefJam Records and BBC, edited by Jake Kreinbring

Kanye interrupts a Roman forum and gives birth to the Leap Year.

moment to sign the laws of time into effect, an old and withered Kanye appeared. The Roman scholars had no idea what was happening, but they quickly came to the conclusion that what they were seeing was divine. “Y’all need to listen up right quick,” the decaying rapper said. “I am a god, the one and only Yeezus. My time on this earth is a gift, so I expect the time of mortals in return. Every four years, you will add an extra day on to the year in order to guarantee the blessing of me, Kanye West.” The old man then died, but the time machine brought his body back to his death bed. The Romans were left no choice but to create leap years, or as they are known to very few, Kanye Dayz.

With Kanye, being a self-proclaimed rap god and all, it really is impossible to tell where we would be without him. Would the world be at its Kanye Best had he not gone on the time traveling Kanye Quest? The world would be without Kanye Zest if it were not for the work of Kanye West.



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## Kony 2015 shakes the world

Justin Flood '17, Circulation Manager

African warlord Joseph Kony, head of the bloodthirsty guerilla organization known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has made people angry again, and this time it is for real. You probably know him from the 2012 video that went viral, garnering millions of views overnight. If you are not aware of what Kony 2012 was, you probably engage in actual contact with other human beings, and are clearly a huge weirdo.

The fact of the matter is, those middle schoolers really did make a difference in 2012. Almost all the kids got nice bracelets, and some even made donations which led to a high tech tracking device being purchased to find Kony. Unfortunately, the device was misplaced and somehow eaten by a group of wild dogs. Don't get me wrong, Kony strongly understands the importance of a bunch of 13-year-olds buying bracelets and hanging up posters towards his capture. In fact, he found it quite humorous, and bought a "Kony 2012" bracelet himself.

With all the commotion that surrounded Kony 2012, the warlord was forced to swing from ropes in the jungle over deep trenches just to avoid being captured. After coming so close, the Kony 2015 movement is bound to take the warlord down. This whole new generation of middle schoolers, and now also fifth graders, embark on the noble journey of taking down Kony with their iPhone 6s and



Photo courtesy of Invisible Children, edited by Jake Kreinbring

With its inspiring ad campaign rallying supporters, Kony 2015 cannot fail.

menacing bicycle gangs. Kony will not know true fear until he is forced to step eye to eye with some of those middle school bikers.

It is important to note that the new generation of social activists has easily blown past the lengthy expectations of Kony 2015, already reaching a full two weeks of interest. This time around, teens are taking matters into their own hands. Taking advice from the Twitter account @trutherbot, they are done trusting the government, and are buying plane tickets to Africa to search for the warlord themselves. Many groups of kids who made the trip into Africa purchased machine guns and machetes to prepare themselves for whatever they would encounter. The teens spent months, searching day by day through the jungles, almost starving to death during their journey.

Little do they know, Kony has changed his plans of attack. Now, Kony has opened a brand new restaurant— Kony Island— where he serves viciously overpriced food. The kids call this highway robbery, and it needs to be put to an end. Facing the power of millions of middle schoolers across the country, all teaming up with matching T-shirts, socks, jackets, shoes, necklaces and other apparel needs all for only \$99.99, the warlord's days are surely numbered.

## Controversy surrounds Brian Williams' new book

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

Following the events of the recent news scandal involving NBC reporter Brian Williams, he has published his first book, *No Fly Zone: My Time as a Pilot*, and it has really taken off. Americans are lining up outside of the few remaining bookstores in order to get a copy. While the novel highlights his secret career as a commercial pilot, the majority of its popularity comes from the heated debate among librarians regarding whether the novel is to be considered fiction or non-fiction.

The issue focuses on his time in Malaysia when he applied for a job at the international airport in Kuala Lumpur. He had hoped to be a flight attendant, but as luck would have it, they hired him as a pilot because he included "not getting shot down" under the experience section of his resume. Finally able to fulfil his childhood dream of being a commercial airline pilot, Williams found himself at the head of a Boeing 777. According to Williams, this was to become the notorious Malaysian Flight 370, the same flight that was believed to have "disappeared over the Indian Ocean."

Seeing as Williams did not actually know how to fly a plane, he wrote that Flight 370 never actually took off. In the face of losing his dream job, Williams, like any rational thinking person, made a quick decision to push the plane behind a hangar and cover it with some tree branches to keep it hidden. Before he fled the scene, he left the seatbelt light on which effectively trapped the passengers because, as we know, unbuckling your seatbelt while the seatbelt sign is on causes the plane to blow up instantly. Williams himself was too scared to return to work, so he fled the country.

Most librarians do not believe his story, and have classified his novel as fiction. They claim that his story cannot be true because of the flight recorder that was followed on the

airport's radar, and therefore could not have stayed hidden behind the hangar. Skeptical librarians and loyal fans of Williams, strongly believe that the news story about Flight 370 was a cover up and that the authorities were too embarrassed about being tricked. They have praised Williams for coming forward and admitting what he did, as well as fighting against evil news corporations who only wanted to milk the story of Flight 370 for all it was worth. To end the debate, Congress has been tasked with choosing the official genre for the novel, but after a countless number of filibusters, they have not even talked about this pressing issue.



Photos courtesy of the New York Times and BuyCostumes, edited by Jake Kreinbring

Williams' fleeting career as a pilot generated many incredible stories.

# Staff vs. student basketball game

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

On March 6, 2015, the student vs. staff basketball game returned to BHS. For the first time in fifteen years the teachers and faculty members laced up their shoes and sought victory against the seniors of the school. Tension was in the air with the returning staff members that have played in previous games including Mr. Steve Weingarden, Mrs. Megan Blackwell, Mr. Ben Bancroft and many others, along with plenty of new teachers who were searching for a shot at victory.

The packed west gym had seats filled all the way to the top. Intimidation filled the room while the amused spectators and seniors saw Mr. Ray Ostrowski dunking the ball with ease and Mrs. Liz Meinhart knocking it down from outside. The senior team was coached by senior basketball captains Connor Mckelvey, Jon Radner and Noah Witus. Dressed in suits on the sideline, the coaches made essential substitutions that helped the senior team achieve victory. Although the varsity basketball team was not allowed to play, the coaches contributed a huge part in the game.

An early lead due to a hard full court press put on by the staff took them to an early double digit advantage. Over the course of the game, the seniors, led by Jason Wingate, continued to slowly cut into the deficit until finally tying it up and sending the game to overtime. Wingate said, "I mean honestly if it weren't for my shots we would not have won that game. I mean I had five three-pointers and 24 points; I went off." Careless turnovers by the staff, loud chants from the crowd and a great senior performance helped the seniors to an overtime win.

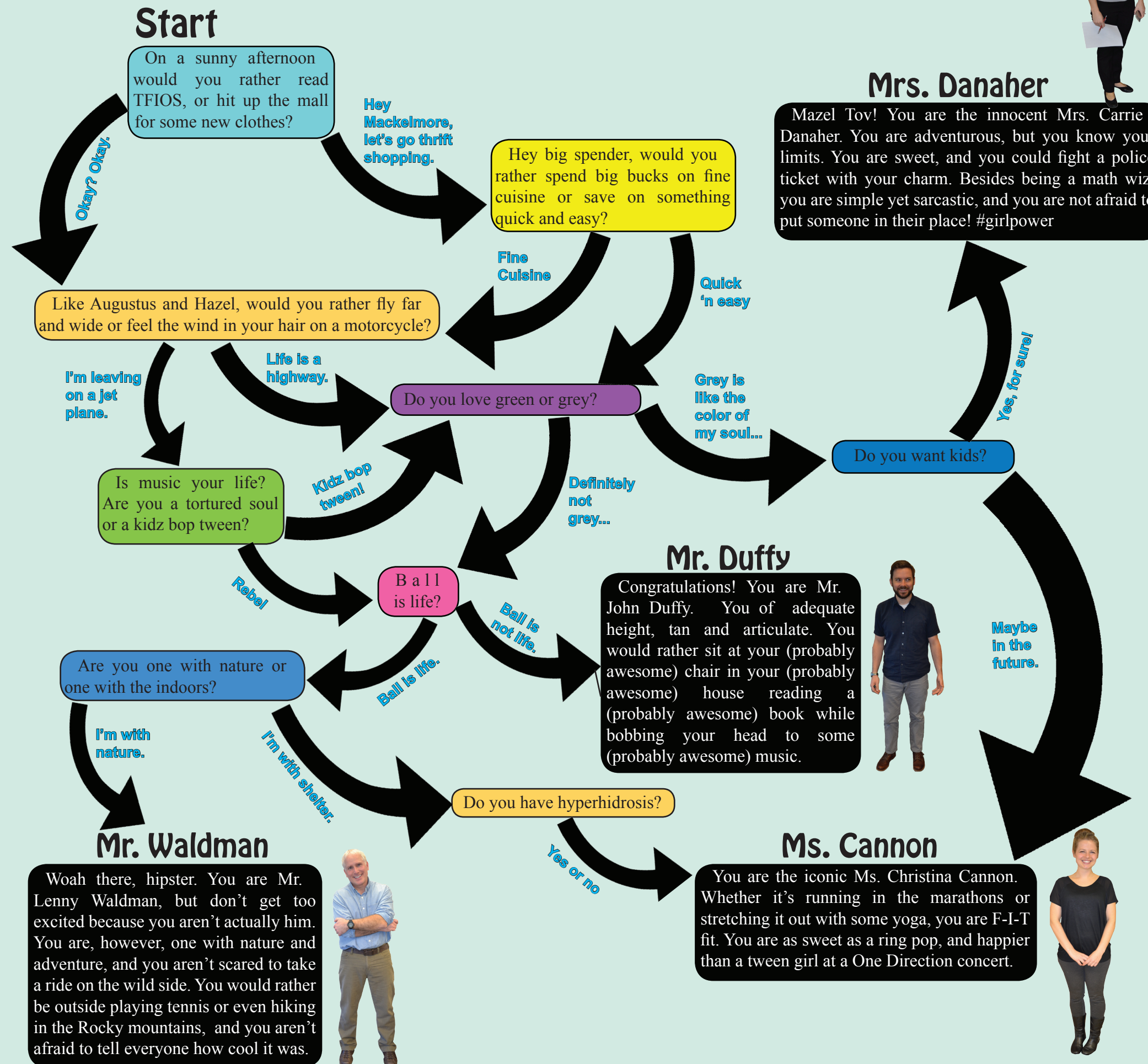
Although the game has not taken place since 2002, from a player's and a spectator's perspective, the senior-staff game was a success. Hopefully, the event will become an annual occasion so the seniors and staff of upcoming classes can enjoy the experience.



Mr. O and senior Mikayla Schohl demonstrate their basketball skills and the competitive tension between the staff and the students.

# Which teacher are you?

Annie Silver '17, Assistant Photo Editor



# Student Leadership's surplus

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

To quote Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country." In terms of a student government, that means that we, the students, should have at least a say in what goes on, and to the average student, it might seem that way. We elect our class representatives who are assigned to Student Leadership, and as a class, they make decisions that are supposed to be in our best interests. From the outside, this system is running smoothly. But after a brief journey deeper than the view of the average student, a much different picture is painted.

Before I go any further, I'd like to make a few things clear: the various numbers outlined in this piece are the result of years and years of a damaged system, and under no circumstances are any current members of Student Leadership directly responsible for any of the current financial situations. Student Leadership does a lot of good for this school. They run many programs within the school, and do so efficiently and effectively. In order to do this, Student Leadership must handle large amounts of money. As we all know, with great power comes great responsibility, and money is power, so by the transitive property of geometry, with great amounts of money comes great responsibility.

In the 2011-2012 school year, Student Leadership's net profit was \$21,815.25, which practically doubled their account at the time, bringing it to \$41,352.56 to start the 2012-2013 school year. At that time, Student Leadership and the administration decided that they should begin to start taking small losses each year. In the 2012-2013 school year, they had a net loss of \$2,049.44. In the 2013-2014 school year, they took a \$5,629.44 loss to end the year with \$35,830.43 sitting in the bank. As of right now, Student Leadership has \$33,137.13 in the bank. To be fair, this number is not the most telling figure because a lot of the things they do require down payments, which forces them to have to have a certain amount of money in their account. Keeping that in mind, the real number that matters would be found at the end of each year.

Now, anyone can sit back and say that is too much money, but after long talks with Student Body President Eliza Laramée, I know that that is not very fair of me. I do not know the ins and outs of Student Leadership, and therefore am in no position to decide whether or not that is too much money. What I do know though, is where that money comes from.

It is safe to assume that almost the entire Student Leadership bank account is funded by students. So, knowing that, think again about the previous number. When you buy anything from Student Leadership, whether it be a bagel for a dollar or a prom ticket for \$60, we assume that it all goes into making the school better. Most of it does, as seen by things like the blood drive, dances and teacher appreciation week, but as evidenced by their bank account, it is clear that this is not entirely true.

When running a nonprofit, transparency is key—showing donors where their money is going is a basic function of all nonprofits. Now, I'm not suggesting that Student Leadership should put how much money is in their bank account on flyers around the school, but refusing to disclose even basic financial information is suspect at the very least. Keeping our student body in the dark about our money is wrong. Keeping that in mind, shouldn't we, as the almost exclusive funder to Student Leadership, know where our money is going? When finances were brought up to various members in Student Leadership, reactions were unexpected, and information was not made readily available.

Student Leadership and the administration have, as evidenced above, taken some measures to reduce Student Leadership's account. They have planned years with the goal to lose money, and in order to cause these minimal losses, Student Leadership paid for half of Upstander, participated in Adopt-a-Family, donated No Shave November funds and sent the dodge ball tournament proceeds to charity, and ran Penny Wars. However, with the amount of money available, they should be doing more outside of these events. I am confident that going forward, this problem will be addressed and will eventually be fixed, but as Spanish philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." To me, that means that even though the problem may now be in the beginning stages of being under control, if the student body never knew of the problem, it would inevitably happen again at some point in the future.

To prevent this, I propose that Student Leadership amend their bylaws to state that they can only profit a certain amount per year, and can only have a certain amount in the bank at any point. I also propose that before any price increase, Student Leadership should be required to, through some sort of presentation to the student body, document why it is required. These regulations would help ensure that Student Leadership never has as big of a surplus as they did in the 2012-2013 school year.

## 12 THE SPECTATOR

## REAL FAIRY TALES

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Everyone knows the classic fairy tales, filled with happily ever afters and wishes on stars. What many don't realize is that these perfect stories are created by Disney, and the real stories that they are based on, are a lot less child friendly. The following stories are the original fairy tales that Disney and others have based their entirely different stories upon:

### **The Little Mermaid:**

*The Little Mermaid*, by Hans Christian Anderson, begins with her falling in love with a prince and then going to the sea witch in order to trade her tongue and voice for a pair of legs, so she can be a human and be with the prince. Unlike the Disney version, the sea witch explains to her that the potion will feel like swallowing a sword and every step she takes will feel like she is walking on knives. Another catch is that if the Prince marries another woman, she will become sea foam and cease to exist. She meets the prince who believes she is beautiful and loves when she dances, even though it causes her pain. In the end, though, he marries another princess whom he believes to have rescued him in the storm. Her sisters know that she is going to die, and they present her with a knife saying that if she kills the prince she can be a mermaid again. In the end, she cannot go through with it because she loves the prince, so she throws herself in the ocean and disintegrates.

### **Sleeping Beauty:**

This first story of *Sleeping Beauty*, written by Giambattista Basile, is one of the more disturbing ones. In this story, everything goes similarly to the movie: the curse of the spindle needle and the deep sleep. It really veers from the Disney version when the King comes to "rescue" her, though. He happens upon her by accident and finds her to be so beautiful that he proceeds to rape her while she is still sleeping. She then gives birth to twins, who wake her up by sucking the flax from her finger, which lifts the curse. The King who fathered the twins goes back to tell her what had happened and they fall in love. Adding to the confusion, the King is married. The wife is envious of the twins and attempts to kill them and feed them to the King, but they are saved by the cook. She also tries to burn Sleeping Beauty alive, but the King saves her, and they end up getting married and live creepily ever after.

### **Snow White and The**

**Seven Dwarves:** The original Grimm version of this classic love story starts in the same way as the movie, with the evil Queen asking a huntsman to kill Snow White because she is "the fairest of them all." Where the story differs from the Disney one is that in the Grimm version, the Queen actually asks the huntsman to return with Snow White's organs. When he fails to kill Snow White, the huntsman brings back boar organs that the queen then eats. She lives with the dwarves until the Queen comes and attempts to kill her three different times, with a poisoned bodice, comb and an apple. Snow White is revived from the apple's poison not from a kiss, but because the glass coffin she was "asleep" in fell and dislodged the apple from her throat. In the end, the queen is punished for her attempted murders by wearing burning shoes and dancing until she drops dead. Snow White and Prince Charming live happily ever after.

Photos courtesy of Faipop

After reading these stories, it is safe to say that Disney took some liberties in making these stories into the enchanting tales children have fallen in love with for generations. Burning shoes and rapist kings definitely do not feel like the Disney we know and love, so after learning the truth about where these tales come from, we must thank them for not allowing us to grow up to these depressing versions.

## CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM YOUTUBER DONATIONS

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

Back when YouTube launched in 2005, nobody expected it to turn into the immensely popular video sharing site that it has become today. As YouTube grew, it became a medium for content creators to upload their own videos and gain a reputation. Famous people on YouTube are known as "YouTubers," and have subscriber counts ranging from thousands to millions. In recent years, playing video games while making commentary, or better known as "Let's Plays," is a popular focus for YouTubers. Many of today's largest channels are based on playing video games for the entertainment of others. While these YouTubers are able to make a living off of their fame, they also make sure to give back and help others who are less fortunate than they are.

During the summer of 2014, one popular group of YouTubers known as *The Creatures* made a significant donation to charity. *The Creatures*, well known for their many adventures in the game "Minecraft," held a charity live stream on Twitch, a website that allows users to stream live videos to anyone who may be watching. Their goal was to raise money for A Precious Child, a charity that helps impoverished children in Colorado, since *The Creatures* operate in the state. Over the course of the eight hour stream, they encouraged viewers to donate by promising rewards as the total contributions increased. Most of the rewards were giveaways of some of *The Creatures* more personal items such as a hat and a mask. However, there were more entertaining rewards such as seeing them get waxed, dyeing/bleaching their hair and even snorting fun dip. The fun dip was the highest goal they reached, as the stream drew in over \$23,000 for the charity.

YouTuber Mark Edward Fischbach, or more commonly known as *Markiplier*, has also

done considerable charity work. Well known for his playthroughs of many different horror games, he has achieved an astounding count of over 6.2 million subscribers. As he aims to hold a charity live stream every month, Fischbach and his fans are always helping different charities. In his February stream, Fishbach and his viewers were able to raise \$75,000 for the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, a whole \$25,000 more than the goal. In total, Fishbach has managed to raise around \$480,000.

The most influential YouTuber is Felix Kjellberg, also known as *PewDiePie*. Sitting at a current 34.8 million (and counting) subscribers, he is easily the most watched channel on YouTube. In May of 2014, Kjellberg celebrated hitting 25 million subscribers by starting a charity for Save the Children. He managed to raise an astounding total of more than \$630,000 through an Indiegogo campaign, special bundle on The Humble Bundle (a website that puts out a group of games on huge sales and donates profit to charity,) streams on Twitch and an anonymous donation of \$150,000.

While it may be true that there are countless people in the world that are living difficult lives, YouTubers such as these still give them a chance. People like *The Creatures*, Fischbach, Kjellberg and countless other YouTubers use their influence and power to bring hope to the less fortunate. Andrew Belcher, a junior, said, "I enjoy seeing the gaming community give back even when some people don't think kindly of gamers." This becomes a win-win situation for all. Not only do they improve the lives of others but also fight against prejudice of gamers. YouTubers and those like them lead the world towards a brighter future for all.

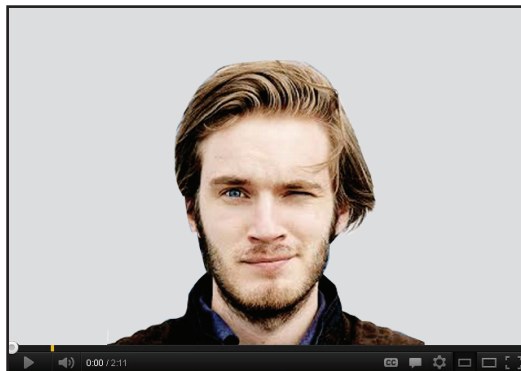


Photo courtesy of Felix Kjellberg

# REPAIR THE WORLD: DETROIT

Jessie Cohen '17, Staff Writer

Based in a workshop at 2701 Bagley Avenue in Detroit, Repair The World is a strictly volunteer, non-profit organization committed to making Detroit a better place. Repair is all about getting stuff done in the city, with determination, assertiveness and a commitment to support the communities they serve. The organization is headed up by founder of Summer in the City, Ben Falik, and is affiliated with multiple other volunteer programs including Summer in the City, Peer Corps, J-Serve and Build On.

Over February break, Repair The World hosted a free week long day camp for children in and surrounding Mexican Town, with counselors who were all volunteers from around the Detroit area.

Other programs run by Repair the World include "Monday Fun Day" which is held at Mission City in Detroit. Mission City is a neighborhood-based school and nonprofit organization run through City Covenant Church that offers education, mentoring and enrichment programs to children from elementary school through high school as well as provides support, financial and otherwise, to their families.

Also run by Repair is Easter Meals on Wheels, where their goal is to provide 3,500 meals to seniors and others who are not available to provide for themselves this Easter.

Wanting an alternative to a stereotypical February

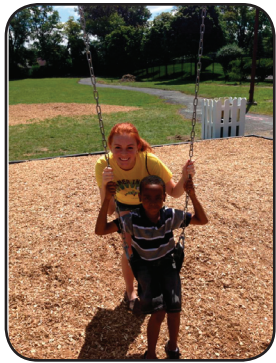
break, six volunteers from J-Serve and Peer-Corps spent three days living in Mexican Town, running the camp along with other volunteers from Build On. All the volunteers felt like they were really making a difference in these children's lives. Senior at Franklin Jewish Academy, Jeffrey Sondheimer said, "I strongly believe that my actions, big or small, made a difference in the lives of the children we served."

Making them smile was the best reward any of the volunteers could have asked for, especially because they knew many of them struggle to get by everyday.

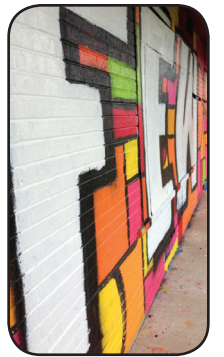
All of the volunteers from every program gained so much more respect for the city of Detroit. Detroit has been given such a bad reputation from the media, simply because people are bored by stories that tell about something going well and are excited by violence and bankruptcy. Although violence

and other various negatives are undoubtedly present in the city, there are also a lot of great things happening that people just do not get to experience. Senior at Bloomfield Hills High School, and active participant in both Repair the World and Peer Corps, Daphne Logan said, "Repair The World creates incredible experiential learning, and every occasion I spend with the organization makes me love it, and Detroit, more." To change the lives of others and your own life, visit [www.werepair.org](http://www.werepair.org).

*"I strongly believe that my actions, big or small, made a difference in the lives of the children we served."*



Senior Robyn Fryc playing with a kid over the summer while volunteering for Summer and the City.



Students Jason Wingate, Eliza Laramée, Adam Isreal and Jane Hammerle spend the summer helping their community.

Photos courtesy of Robyn Fryc

# BHS BAND SET TO HEAD TO NEW ORLEANS

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

Over spring break, the BHS marching band will be taking their annual class trip. This year, the band will be heading down south to New Orleans for a five day extravaganza where they will be able to immerse themselves in the rich sights and sounds of the Big Easy.

The trip, which is set to take place from April 8-12, will allow the BHS band to study the musical culture that this famous Louisiana city has to offer. Being the birthplace of Jazz, the band's trip will focus mainly on the influence of the music genre on American culture over the years. Partaking in New Orleans' indigenous sound, the jazz band will be performing two concerts that will showcase their skills in the musical arena.

Along with the study of Jazz and its history, the band will also be visiting some of the top tourist attractions that New Orleans has to offer. The band has planned to take a ride on a steamboat, tour the French Quarter (which is the oldest neighborhood in New Orleans, also known as the Vieux Carré) and lastly, visit the Buckner Mansion, which is where the third series of the hit TV series *American Horror Story: Coven* was filmed.

Senior and band member Natalie Jackson is looking forward most to visiting the Buckner Mansion. "I'm most excited to tour the house from *American Horror Story*, It's one of my favorite shows," Jackson said. Jackson also plans to be spending a great deal of quality time with her fellow band members and friends. "I am going to be spending a lot of my spare time with some of my best band friends while in New Orleans," she added "I feel that that will be the most rewarding part of the trip, especially because I'm a senior this year."

It is no doubt that the band will benefit tremendously from this outstanding opportunity. With a diverse and colorful culture not only surrounding New Orleans' musical scene, but the city as a whole, the band is sure to have an amazing time while on their trip.



The band will see the glorious French Quarters and Buckner Mansion. They will also get to enjoy the jazztastic music of New Orleans.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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## The show that is building an 'Empire'

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

On Jan. 7, Fox premiered its newest drama, *Empire*. The show follows the Lyon family and their affairs in the music industry as a successful record label, with dramatic family situations and altercations.

*Empire* is not an ordinary night time soap opera. The show incorporates real musical talent, performing each episode. This gives viewers an authentic portrayal of a real label by offering real artists that are aspiring to make their big break. The show's playlist is mostly composed of rap songs, but it also incorporates R&B, pop and soul. "The artists on *Empire* are amazing. I enjoyed the music so much that I saved them to my phone and listen to a variety of them daily," senior Julia Viner said. Although *Empire*'s soundtrack is geared towards only a portion of viewers, because it is the same type of music, they do a fairly decent job in making the actual music aspect of the show likable to almost everyone.

As much as music is one of the more enjoyable parts of the show, the characters are what keep viewers coming back. Entertainment is never lacking especially with characters like Cookie, the charismatic, estranged ex-con mother whose drug money was used to start the million dollar company, or Andre, the company lawyer who is plotting against his own father to get the company after he passes, but is also battling bipolar disorder. There is always interfamilial drama that never ceases to entertain.

*Empire* also does an amazing job at making at least one character relatable in some way to every viewer. It takes on real world issues eloquently. With one of the sons being gay, they portrayed his secret affairs and internal battle about whether to come out or not extremely effectively. They also take on the issue of racism in many different ways throughout the show. Although it is not the main focus, in almost every episode there is a comment from an African American character about race in reference to loyalty, unity and history. Mommy and daddy issues also come up in regards to relationships that characters have with their lovers, as well as the topic of mental illness and many other important issues many deal with on a day to day basis.

It is also very important to note that the cast of *Empire* is composed almost solely of African American actors. "It's a really strong black cast. They live up to some stereotypes, but also do a great job breaking them," junior Lauren Angel said. The show portrays a different perspective of record labels in contrast to the image most people have. Fox does an incredible job of portraying true personalities and personas of characters that are fun to get to know. *Empire* airs every Wednesday night at 9 o'clock, and anyone who tunes in will be pleased with the entertainment the show provides.

The new hit show *Empire* takes over Berkley.

Photos by Entertainment Editor Cameron Cece

## Breaking Bad's Prequel: Better Call Saul

Zoe Blake '17, Assistant Photo Editor

On Feb. 8, the long awaited Breaking Bad spin off, *Better Call Saul* premiered on AMC. The show opened with Saul, Walter White's lawyer in *Breaking Bad*, working at a Cinnabon as a manager.

In *Breaking Bad*, as Saul was going into witness protection, he said to Walter, "If I'm lucky, in about a month from now, best case scenario, I'm managing a Cinnabon in Omaha." This indicates how closely related the two shows are.

For those that did not previously watch *Breaking Bad*, the opening of this series is very confusing because they can not make or understand the connections to *Breaking Bad*. However, the confusion quickly dissipates when Saul arrives home and began to watch his old late night ads, transforming the show into its set time period: pre lawyer to Walter White, the biggest methamphetamine cook. So, somewhere off-screen, Walter is still teaching high school chemistry, possibly even to Jesse Pinkman, Walter's partner in crime in *Breaking Bad*.

Saul is not even really playing Saul. Technically, instead, he is playing Jimmy McGill, a mediocre lawyer working in the back of a nail salon who can barely get

his hands on a case. The series (at this point) is about how law-abiding Jimmy truly becomes Saul Goodman, a criminal lawyer, who could even be considered a criminal himself.

Fans of *Breaking Bad* seem to have a lot of diverse opinions on the spin off. Sophomore Conner Grobbel said, "It is a cool concept in how it brings in old characters and shows them in different places." He added, "Saul's history is tricky to figure out, but all the foreshadowing and clues along the way make it fun to watch if you have seen *Breaking Bad* prior." While some might feel this way, only time will tell how the show will evolve in terms of its connection to *Breaking Bad* and how it will all come together. Fans of both series will be sure to tune as the series progresses.

Saul Goodman takes over television in new series *Better call Saul*.

Photo courtesy of Ursula Coyote/AP

## Disney: from 2D to 3D

Sloan Elie '18, Assistant Feature Editor

Many assume that Disney has officially run out of ideas since they have been using all of their time and money recreating old films instead of using that time to brainstorm new ideas. Why would Disney even recreate a film that originally cost 25 million dollars only to spend an additional 175 million dollars to remake the exact same movie, just with real people? Have the people at Disney's writer block become so bad that they have no choice but to make the same movie, but just at quadruple the cost?

In recent years, Disney has transformed their classic cartoon stories into live action films. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Snow White* are the most popular flicks to be revived. The newest revival of *Cinderella* was released March 13. However, many people, like sophomore Anna Host, are sick of Disney bringing old classics back from the past. "*Cinderella* has been remade 10 times; it is just stupid to make it again," Host said.

There are many interpretations of *Cinderella*, ranging from *Another*

*Cinderella Story* starring Selena Gomez, to *Ever After* starring the one and only Drew Barrymore. *Cinderella* has been created from every possible angle. How will the 2015 version make this old story interesting? Disney's logic is to stick with the basics. The storyline is going to stay in the same PG zone as Disney always has and will have a ton of impressive special effects.

Not only is *Cinderella* being remade, but so is *Beauty and the Beast*. It will be starring Emma Watson, and will be released in 2016. "This film could be good," junior Melia Bleuenstein said. "There are not many *Beauty and the Beast* versions out there," Bleuenstein said. They have to make it right or else the film will not sell.

Of course, Disney will probably continue to keep on the safe path they are going down presently. However, this is not the Disney that many Americans came to know and love. Taking no risks towards some new ideas and just playing it safe is a huge disappointment. Disney needs to step up their game, or else they will lose their biggest fans.



Photos courtesy flickr user applemohb and Wikimedia commons user Bernice44

# Choosing independence or a label

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

Every artist asks themselves the same question when breaking out into mainstream success: would it be a good idea to stay independent, or to sign with a major label? All artists are able to choose what path to take and choosing the more suitable path is a difficult task, for both have a vast amount of pros and cons.

Signing with a major label is a great way to propel an artist into the mainstream and gain a large fan base. Artists like Kanye West and Jay-Z who are signed to a corporation have few worries. Each event is scheduled by the higher powers and the expectations of artists are to show up on time and record what the label wants. The job of the label is to create widespread success and establish the artist worldwide. Popularity is usually gained by releasing singles, and the sound is usually aimed to a large audience rather than smaller groups who enjoy a bit more material. Instrumentals are usually more upbeat and lyrics are simplified, but that does not mean the music is inferior. Junior Griffin Palmer said, "Some of my favorite artists have songs played on the radio all the time and that does not take away from the rest of their music." Many artists usually put out one or two of these songs, and the rest of their album consists of more complex or thoughtful pieces.

Signing with a record label can drive careers forward, yet there are some significant drawbacks. Many fail to understand that being on a label means they are now employed and must cooperate with the complete demands of the company. The heads of these companies can manage how the artist sounds, what they say and the style of music they produce. Many artists in the past have struggled to work cohesively with the label due to the idea that labels are focused on making money rather than allowing creative freedom. Junior Carlton Williams said, "I can think of a ton of artists who have disappeared just because they would not work with a label. I think of Lupe Fiasco and Lil Wayne when they were just starting out as independent artist and then look at them now on a label and there is no comparison. He added they really have started to lack quality." However, it is not the label's fault. On average, a label needs at least \$100,000 to make the money back that was spent managing an artist. Until that money is recovered, an artist's income is rather small. Royalties can be granted after the \$100,000 is gained, but many artists do not make much because the label is usually reaping most of the monetary benefits from the deal.

So, if signing does not appeal to an artist, they can remain independent. Solo artists are able to retain originality and keep all the money they make in-house. With platforms out today like YouTube, SoundCloud and Twitter, music is easier to release to the masses. Many artists such as *Chance the Rapper* and rap group *Run the Jewels* have become famous thanks to these platforms. These platforms allow the musician to stay original

rather than changing to fit the mainstream. The next best thing about staying independent is that most of the money an artist generates from performing or playing music stays with that artist and is spent on propelling their career forward. Cutting out the middle man saves a ton of time and money.

On the other hand, success is hard to come by for an Indie artist. Getting their name out into the world is difficult, and many times success will not follow. Nevertheless, social media has improved the chances of a solo musician making it big. However, not many people want to be approached by a small time artist on social media just looking for a chance. "My twitter timeline is full of small time rappers telling me to check out their music. It is very annoying," Williams said. Money is difficult to manage when starting out as well. Studio time or putting on a concert most likely will cost money that the musician does not really have. Selling mix tapes or playing on the street is not always ideal, but it at least can lead to some quick cash, yet it will not be a substantial amount. Without money or a way to spread their name, a solo composer will struggle to gain traction and catch fire like some of the new up and coming talents signed with a label.

There is no "correct" path to take when starting a career in music. Some feel one is better off being pushed into the spotlight, while others feel being conservative and patient can benefit the composer greatly. In the end the final choice is up to the musician.



Chance the Rapper is one of the most successful independent artists.

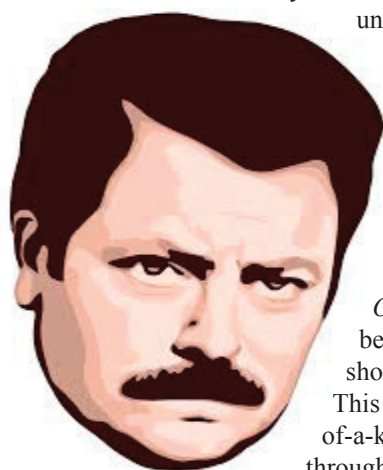


Kanye West and other artists join together to form the label GOOD music.

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia Commons user Dman41689 and SuperXmag

# Rest in peace *Parks and Recreation*

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor



The beloved tv show *Parks and Recreation* has finally come to its inevitable, yet heartbreaking end. The series concluded after seven unforgettable seasons on Tuesday, Feb. 24. It was not just a show about a federal government department; it was much, much more. It was and will forever be known as the kooky and dysfunctional, yet witty and hilarious, *Parks and Rec.* bunch to its immense fan base.

Over the last five years, *Parks and Rec.* has left a legacy in the world of comedy and TV entertainment alike. In the initial season, it started off as a measly *Office* knockoff that produced mild amusement with below average ratings. As time passed, however, the show proved that previous notion to be anything but true. This show, in turn, evolved into a laugh-till-you-cry, one-of-a-kind, comedic show that gained ratings that skyrocketed through the roof. As an entire cast, each main character had their own purpose

and uniqueness, they tied together to make a well-balanced and very entertaining show. The actors of this series were a big part of its success and a huge reason as to why the show was so loved and will be dearly missed. Amy Poehler played the semi-suffocating, but determined Leslie Knope, and Adam Scott was her control freak, clean-cut, husband, Ben Wyatt. Nick Offerman starred as the all-American, government-hating and meat-loving Ron Swanson. Senior Sarah Vertel said, "Even the characters you hate, you love. They are all adorable and hilarious." None of the performers lack talent which assisted the show in being popular among so many households nationwide.

This is a bittersweet farewell. The renowned series, *Parks and Recreation*, will never be replaced in the world of comedic television or in the hearts of its fans. The show's reputation will remain untouchable, and the storyline will forever be incomparable. Vertel added, "It is going to be tough for any show to top this one, and it is my all-time favorite." Tears have, and will continue to be shed, over its unwanted end, but the laughter and joy it created will live on for many years to come. Thankfully, the hit comedy is not truly erased from our lives thanks to Netflix keeping it available to us all. However, the series will no longer continue with the story it began, and we are now stuck with watching reruns. This is one of the hardest goodbyes ever made in comedic TV series history, so in the words of Leslie, "Knope, out," but it won't be out of our hearts.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Anders Krusberg

# The **HOT** or **NOTs** of March

## Shamrock Shake

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

It's that time of the year again. No, unfortunately, I am not referring to the freedom of summer, but to the return of the Shamrock Shake. Whether you are Irish or the furthest thing from it, this St. Patrick's Day inspired shake will be sure to tingle your taste buds. Regular plain vanilla milkshakes have transformed into a creamy, minty, scrumptious, green treat that any dessert lover will guzzle down in a heartbeat. Just as the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks indicates the arrival of fall, the Shamrock Shake signals the beginning of spring and is only served throughout the month of March. So, make sure you swing by your nearest McDonalds and indulge yourself, or your friends, with the joys of the notorious Shamrock Shake.

## Kanye West

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

Kanye West has been one of the biggest stars in the rap and hip-hop industry since 1998 when his *The College Dropout* album was released. Each year, West captivates people all around the world with hilarious interviews and mid-concert rants. However, 2015 has been different. West has recently sat down with various radio shows discussing his life and upcoming eighth studio album *So Help Me God*. Kanye said that this year he is working on being politically correct and so far, it has been extremely awkward to watch. The reason why Kanye is so enjoyable is the same reason so many hate him. He is not afraid to speak his mind even if his opinion is unpopular or offensive. Kanye learns to balance the crazy with the bland, but for the moment, Kanye Kardashian seems to have lost his edge.

## The SpongeBob Movie

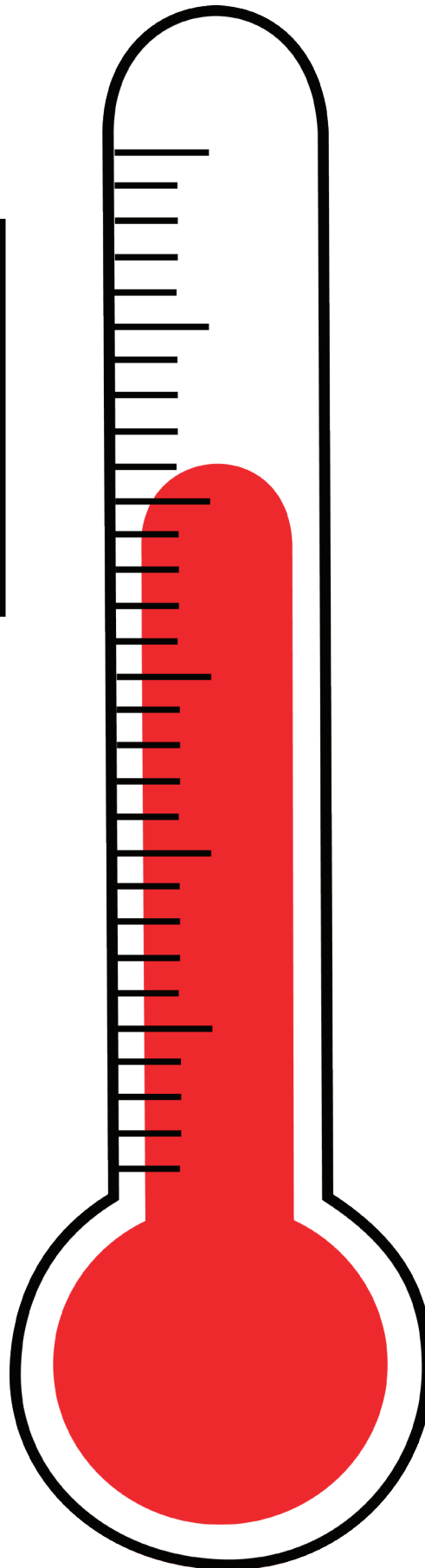
William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

With imminent death facing the *SpongeBob SquarePants* franchise, as there have not been many new episodes recently, something dazzling has emerged. A fresh new movie has emerged: *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water*. Instead of trying to reach out to new SpongeBob fans, this film targets both grownups and teenagers who were fans of the show when it first debuted in the late '90s. While technically advertised as a kid's movie, *Sponge Out of Water* has an outlandish tone that is reminiscent of other '90s cartoons like *The Ren & Stimpy Show* and *Rocko's Modern Life*. There is an uncanny feeling while watching, that the plot could go anywhere. If a viewer expects a typical cartoon adventure, they will be very surprised. *Sponge Out of Water* is a fun and zany experience that is best viewed on a big screen with an open mind and good friends.

## College basketball

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor

Between the "Fab Five" of the University of Michigan and the long reign of success for the Michigan State Spartans led by head coach Tom Izzo, college basketball fans in Michigan have been extremely spoiled with the success of their teams in recent years. To say this 2014-2015 season was humbling for these fans and universities is an understatement. Things immediately went downhill for the Wolverines when forward Caris Levert, who is widely considered the Wolverines' best player, was injured and declared out for the season. Michigan State is underperforming as well, losing 10 games in the regular season, compared to just eight losses last year even with a tougher schedule. Michigan did not qualify for the NCAA or NIT Tournament, and Michigan State is an unusually low seven-seed.



# UPDATING THE NATIONAL PASTTIME: MLB LOOKS TO SPEED UP THE PACE

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

Due to the extremely short attention span of generation Z, the MLB has decided to speed up the game of baseball. The commissioner's office is making an effort to do this by implementing a few new guidelines:

**1.** A clock will count down in between innings from 2:25 during locally televised games, and 2:45 during nationally televised games. Once the clock hits :30, the pitcher must stop throwing warm up pitches to ensure that players will be ready when the TV coverage returns. This new rule is going to remove unnecessary breaks in the action thus making the game shorter. This clock will also serve as part of a related rule which will require pitching changes to be completed by the time the commercial break ends.

**2.** All batters must keep at least one foot in the batter's box at all times. This should shorten the amount of time wasted by players requesting a time out and then walking in circles, adjusting their batting gloves and helmets. Batters calling time is one of the biggest time wasters in the game of baseball, and it can make games aggravating for fans to watch. David Ortiz, the 39-year-old slugger on the Boston Red Sox's told USA Today's Nick Schwartz, "After the pitch, you have to stay in the box? I call that [expletive]. They don't understand that when you come out of the box . . . this is not like you go to the plate with an empty mind. When you see guys coming out of the box, we're not doing it just for doing it. Our mind is speeding up." He is one of many older players that is opposed to this rule.

**3.** Managers will no longer be allowed to go on the field to use their challenges. Last season, managers would stall by arguing with umpires to wait for their bench coach to signal to the manager if he should challenge the play or not after watching the replay. Now, managers will signal whether they want to challenge a play from the dugout before the next pitch, or a review will not occur.

The rules are controversial for players, managers and fans alike. Older fans are reluctant to accept them, because baseball has been the same for over a hundred years. On the other hand, younger fans seem to be more interested in sports like hockey, basketball and soccer because of their quick and continuous pace. Junior Sam Hurwitz is one of those young fans. Hurwitz said, "Speeding up play livens it up a little more. The most popular sports games are two hours and baseball is three or more [hours]."

These rules should help baseball a little bit, but the game will still not be as action packed as other sports. More pace of play rules are expected to be added in the next couple of years including the possibility of a pitch clock. It is still unknown how much these rules will shorten the game, but either way the game will not be greatly impacted.



Photo courtesy of Parker Harrington

First baseman David Ortiz opposes the new rule changes to speed up the play.



Photo courtesy of Hannah Fosslien

Tigers' manager Brad Ausmus challenges a call on the field.

# PISTONS LOOKING TO IMPROVE IN THE LONG RUN

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

This season for the Detroit Pistons has been a rollercoaster ride, starting with a dreadful 5-25 start, putting them among the worst teams in the league. It was at that point of desperation that head coach and President of Basketball Operations, Stan Van Gundy, decided to release the highest paid player on the team, Josh Smith. After that, the Pistons went on a tear, winning 10 of their next 12 games, led by point guard Brandon Jennings.

However, things soon tempered out after Jennings tore his left Achilles tendon on Jan. 25. This led to three consecutive defeats for the Pistons. Detroit started D.J. Augustin at point guard, who played well, but not quite at the level of play Jennings provided. The Pistons won half of their games with Augustin at the starting point guard position, and sputtered going into the All-Star Break. The Pistons were two and a half games out of a playoff spot at the time, and Van Gundy contemplated what could give the Pistons an edge over the other teams. The trade deadline occurred a week later, and as expected, Van Gundy turned aggressive.

Besides Drummond, the Pistons do not have a star-caliber player that they could keep for the long term future. The Pistons also needed a point guard with the Jennings injury, making the Oklahoma City Thunder's backup point guard Reggie Jackson the perfect fit for the Pistons. Jackson did not get a lot of playing time for the Thunder, despite his talent, due to the fact that he was backing up arguably the best point guard in the league, Russell Westbrook. "Especially because Jennings is out for the year, [Jackson] is a huge help," freshman Corey Zimmerman said.

The Pistons had to give up small forward Kyle Singler and point guard D.J. Augustin, who were both playing well at the time, to acquire Jackson. With that high of a price, it is fair to assume Van Gundy is counting on Jackson to lead the team to the postseason and potentially, take over Jennings' starting job for the future.

In addition, the Pistons made another trade deadline deal getting back forward Tayshaun Prince from the Boston Celtics for forwards Luigi Datome and Jonas Jerebko.

Prince was part of the 2004 Pistons team that won the championship, before he left the team in 2013. Sophomore Dana McDowell said, "It's great to have a piece of the championship team back in Detroit." However, this was a great trade for more than sentimental reasons, as Prince was an upgrade in talent over Jerebko and Datome, in spite of his career soon coming to an end.

As the playoffs near, the Pistons are on the home stretch, doing all that they can to qualify for the postseason. However, this season is not the last chance for the Pistons. The team intended to have an eventful off-season, possibly looking at forward Draymond Green from Golden State, which would bring him back to his hometown. Whatever happens regarding the Pistons and their playoff chances, this season is a huge success compared to previous years, and fans are confident that they are only going to improve in the upcoming seasons.



# Winter sports review:

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager and Annie Silver '17, Assistant Photo Editor

## Boys' basketball

The boys' basketball team did exceedingly well this season, guided by their excellent captains seniors Jon Radner, Noah Witus and Conor McKelvey, ending with a record of 9-8. The boys had big wins against Ferndale (74-50) and Cranbrook Kingswood (65-56). On Jan. 27, the boys had an intense game against Lake Orion High School. "I probably had the best game of my life," junior Jordan Zimmerman said, who scored 12 points and made the game winning shot, making the final score 59-58. On March 3, the boys had a terrific game against rival, Royal Oak. They came out with a 78-71 win.

## Girls' Basketball

The girls' varsity basketball team thrived this season as captains junior Celia Somers, and seniors Eliza Laramée and Grace Hammerle, led their team to victory with a record of 16-7, receiving second place in the league, right behind Southfield High School. The girls have big wins against Ferndale, Groves and Royal Oak. "We had a better record this year because of our chemistry," sophomore Makoya Denham said. Even though the girls have had a couple losses this year, they have worked well together both on and off the court.

## Wrestling

The wrestling team had a successful season. Captain and junior Vinnie Tenaglia said, "We had a lot more people this season and everyone is pretty good, which was very exciting." Tenaglia completed the season with a spectacular record of 30-11. A few people left in the middle of the season which hurt the team. However, they powered through to complete the season and send two of their team members to states. Seniors Gary Brown and Tyler Mack competed at the MHSAA state wrestling meet at the Palace of Auburn Hills on March 5.



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## Harbaugh's homecoming

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant Opinion Editor

Ann Arbor welcomes home Jim Harbaugh after his acceptance of the head coaching job at the University of Michigan. The recent head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, and former quarterback for the Wolverines, is excited to continue his coaching legacy at his collegiate Alma mater. Winner of the Woody Hayes Trophy (top collegiate coach) with Stanford in 2010, Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year in 2011 and an NFC championship with San Francisco, Harbaugh is widely considered to be one of the premier football coaches in the country. His ability to develop players has inspired many high school recruits to commit to U of M. Because of Harbaugh's known talents, this year's class is expected to be the best Michigan recruiting class in years. As a result of the successful recruiting class, the hopeful development in the football program will bring in improved classes for years to come.

The signing of former head coach Brady Hoke in 2011, who replaced Rich Rodriguez after his failures, was at first thought to be a promising move. His first year on the job, Hoke led the Wolverines all the way to the BCS Sugar Bowl. His downward slope of season records throughout his years at U of M ended with a gruesome 5-7 record in 2014 without a bowl appearance. The disappointment from such a well-respected football program was questionably the worst Michigan football season of the modern era.

On Dec. 29, 2014, the near future of the football program changed. Coach Jim Harbaugh's recruitment progress came shortly after his return to Ann Arbor. Harbaugh has gathered 14 letters of intent from players across the country in his short time with the school. Some of these players include: Brian Cole, a four-star corner back from Saginaw; Zach Gentry, a four-star 6-foot-7-inch pocket passer from Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Tyree Kinell, a four-star safety from Dayton, Ohio.

A new era for the maize and blue has arrived. "I think Jim Harbaugh is a great coach and can reconstruct the program," freshman Sam Stone said. "His legacy as a past Michigan fan and player will connect the fans to him as a head coach more than Brady Hoke and past coaches." Harbaugh will bring a fresh start from past years that will intrigue more fans and supporters than previous years. Harbaugh's position is expected to return the Michigan football program to the national powerhouse level that it was so long ago.

# Bears keep their paws warm with another great season

## Cheer

This past cheer season has been a truly remarkable one. There are many new girls on the team this year; freshman Bola Oluwole considers the team her family. The competitive cheer team participated in many meets and events including the 8th Annual Berkley Invitational they hosted. The Invitational was an outstanding highlight of their season. "We put in a lot of work. It was a challenge but also really fun. During the whole season, all the girls from the team were really nice and they were always there to help," Oluwole said. Overall, the competitive cheer team had a great season, cheering their way to the top.

## Hockey

The boys' hockey team rocked out with an impressive season record of 14-8. They were led by captains and seniors Max Dooley, and Robby Flannery, and juniors Ryan Austin and Ian Melrose. On Dec. 27, the boys went up against BHS's rival, Royal Oak, and won 10-3. On March 4, the hockey team played a great game against Brother Rice which was very intense, but they unfortunately lost 4-3 in heartbreaking fashion. Melrose finished in the lead for points with an overall 67 total, followed by junior Zach Leonard with 49. Sophomore Gabe Jones said, "We did very well this year, better than we all expected, and it was really great playing with the guys."

## Figure Skating

While gracefully flying through the air and landing their triple axels, the girls' figure skating team had been gliding through this season with elegance and grace. "We have put in a lot of work this season compared to previous ones. We have really been doing well, and I'm so happy to be a part of such a great team," junior Anna Treppa said. Within their respective districts, the figure skating A team came out in 4th place, the B team in 2nd place and their C team in 4th place. The B team qualified for the state competition, which will take place on March 28 and 29 in Midland.

## March Madness: Let the games begin

Drew Leshman '17, Hot or Not Editor

During the beginning of March, one cannot avoid hearing about exciting news coming from anxious college basketball fans. From the most memorable games, to the enormous amounts of hype, March Madness truly is a 'mad' event.

Every year around the third week of March, 68 NCAA men's college basketball teams are elected into the tournament by the NCAA committee. In the competition, a win keeps the team alive, and a loss sends them back to their hometown. "One team can have one bad game, and it's all over," freshman David Karwaski said. Each team must bring it each and every game, or they will soon face their punishments having to go back home to simply await the start of next season. The tournament is structured in a very unique way. It goes through six different rounds in about three weeks, ending up at Lucas Oil stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana for the Final Four, which brings a lot of excitement to the tournament from people all over the world.

Selection Sunday took place on March 15, and the whole country simultaneously tuned in to CBS to hear the exciting matchups that will take place this year. The one-seeds were handed out to Wisconsin, Villanova, Kentucky and Duke. Kentucky, having a record breaking season going undefeated, will be a hard team to beat when it comes to competition. "Kentucky has always been a good team. They have a lot of power players that play really well together," senior Jacob Coutu said. He continued, "I think they're going to do really well in the tournament." However, do not forget about other teams who have had a successful regular season, such as number five-seed Northern Iowa or four-seed Louisville. March Madness is always full of surprises.

Make sure to tune in to March Madness to get some of the best action in the history of college basketball, where top teams like Kentucky, Duke, Wisconsin and Villanova will try to take hold of the National Championship at the end of the tournament.

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## 20 THE SPECTATOR

## ONE STORY IS NOT THE ONLY ONE

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

Ever since I can remember, I have been taught in and out of school to be my own person, to form my own opinions on situations and to stay true to myself and what I believe. But, it is truly impossible to completely do that in today's society. At the beginning of our schooling careers, we began being taught others' beliefs about social aspects of life through many different activities that are perceived as normal. Opinions on certain people, places and historic events were forced into our brains, making it more difficult to form our own thoughts on certain subjects.

It all stems back to when we were seven years old, doing activities in first grade where the objective was to pick out the item that "doesn't fit" within the group. The moment the teacher reveals the answer to the class, they are immediately telling young students that it is not okay to be different. Maybe if we did not partake in like-minded activities there would be no hate, no cliques and no discrimination against things or people who are different.

This, however, was only the beginning. It started with social aspects of our lives, but after experiencing almost three years of high school now, it seems that these "teachings" have been geared more toward the ideology and political parts of our thinking. Thus they begin to aim towards our ideas of different types of governments and lifestyles.

In classes like English and history, the content we learn is very biased. Of course, this is not the teachers' fault in any way, shape or form because we are a public school and they do not decide what they teach or the curriculum through which they teach, but nevertheless, it is still biased, because we only learn one side of the story in most cases.

I started to notice it the most sophomore year in Honors English. Three out of the six books we read—*Animal Farm*, *The Crucible* and *Anthem*—were centered around communism or the negative effects and fears of it. Not all of the books were direct critiques of communism, but through the tone and dynamics of the books we read, and the analytical lenses through which we viewed them, it was clear that it was not being portrayed positively. Because these stories taught us similar messages, we were essentially given a single sided story. We only received a certain view of a complex issue and therefore made a judgment based on the limited information, and that one side of this multi-sided story.

Do not get me wrong, I am not saying that I am pro-communist by any means, but I am saying that I am now against communism because of the biased views I was presented with when I was a sophomore, and then again as a junior with the reading of *1984* and "Harrison Bergeron." It was almost as if the entire year was centered around convincing us that communism was the most ineffective government system ever created, and we as Americans should always do our best to limit our interaction, and attraction to those beliefs, because it only ends in sorrow, and failing societies.

If forming our political views wasn't enough, as a junior, having read *Into the Wild* and learning about existentialism and transcendentalism, my ideologies, have also been molded to the government's belief on the matters. These matters including the preferential life path that pertains to school.

The life of the example Transcendentalist we talked about was less than successful. We were shown this through the non-fiction book, *Into the Wild*. Based on a true story, it biographically tells the story of a young, seemingly transcendentalist thinker who runs away from his life to "find himself" and becomes one with nature in the Alaskan wilderness. He burns some of his money, gave the rest to charity, and ultimately ended up dead. Because of the path in which most of us were raised, it seems like a very stupid and illogical future path to take to create a successful future for yourself.

Even the premise of the story, before even reading it, turned me off from the lifestyle because I have been taught things in one way, and therefore believe that the right way is the way that I was taught. But with it being junior year, and college decisions looming right around the corner, they needed to fully convince us that the only right way of life is the one that is laid out for us by the government with school. The purpose, it seemed, of the debate we had in class, transcendentalism route vs traditional student route, was to show us that the transcendentalists can never be truly successful by modern day societal standards. Therefore, because we were only given one example of a real life transcendentalist, we only know one side of the ideology and came to the conclusion that in the 21st century, this way of life is just not truly realistic.

Of course school is not the only place that we learn from a biased point of view. Every second we spend with our parents, friends or anyone in today's society, someone's opinions are being pushed on us. Whether it is socially, politically or ideologically, no matter who we are with or where we are, there is always an underlying message or motivation.

However, I believe that it does not truly stem from just the schooling system, but rather America's ego and morality as a whole. We like to be perceived as the best. We want the strongest economy, best governmental ruling style, most educated citizens and a plethora of other superior qualities. It is not as if we are being lied to with the content we are taught in school, but we are rather deceived because it is not the full truth. We are only given a one sided story in U.S. History that makes America look better in certain situations than if we were to be given the entire story so we are truly unable to come to any type of unbiased opinion of our own.

Maybe there is not a solution to take the bias out of teaching, because different teachers teach in different ways, but there are solutions to making the content we learn unbiased. I think that for example, if we were to read a book or short story in which a transcendentalist was successful instead of dead at the end of their journey, and learned about what it takes to be a transcendentalist in the modern world, that we would be more able to come to a more educated conclusion on the ideology as a whole instead of basing it off of one specific example. I think that in general we need to be given as many sides of the story as possible, so that we can come to our own conclusions that are not ignorant, but supported, with evidence to become better educated and conscious people.

## HERE'S WHAT I HAVE TO SAY

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

As I have reflected on my past couple of years as a student journalist, I have realized how powerful words can be. People use the saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" to protect themselves from others criticizing them and causing them to essentially feel insignificant. But, that is not completely true.

Words have the potential to enforce change, and it happens every single day. They formulate protests, set ideas in motion and ask questions that challenge us to improve, and it all leads to a turning point where everything is altered. However, as a high school journalist, it seems that I am limited to writing about only certain issues and sharing my insight on only those topics that are deemed appropriate. Censorship is an issue that restricts people who want to spark ideas that can lead to change and lends itself to those sparks of ingenuity being extinguished. This is a major problem. Without words, how do we expect to advance within our human society and way of life? How will our society ever change? What can we do to change present issues that seem to never fade away?

I should possess the ability to write freely about marijuana use, underage alcohol consumption, practicing safe sex, war, politics, racism and other important issues within our community that I deem suitable on which to express my opinions and beliefs. Because, whether we accept it or not, these topics are very real, they occur every day and to simply denounce them to an unworthy status of recognition is not only wrong, but unjust. I should have the freedom to convey and circulate my views, perspective and growing knowledge on the subject, whether it be beneficial or controversial. Without allowing any form of recognition towards the matter at hand, it is impossible to find a solution or a better way of understanding it. Censorship demeans the existence of evolving and improving how we perceive problems and how we seek to fix them.

Most do not understand why censorship takes place and how it truly affects those who are silenced and unable to communicate their concerns. If you take a gander at page two of *The Spectator*, it clearly states at the top that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; of abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." It also cites this in the First Amendment of the Constitution. This means that this entire newspaper (and other press sources and distributors) is comprised of facts, beliefs and opinions on topics (which can be at times, sensitive issues) that are to be freely expressed and shared with the public. As a student journalist, it is also imperative that what I write about does not slander or degrade others simply because I have the opportunity to do so. That is not the purpose of being a journalist. However, sharing thoughts on "touchy" topics such as drugs, sex, bullying and censorship should not be limited just because it is viewed as inappropriate or not politically correct. As journalists, it is an understanding that what we write about is shared with anyone and everyone, open to judgment, contradicting opinions and criticism. However, that being said, what I choose to write about should not be limited simply because of opposing beliefs or what others label as appropriate.

Take Rochester High School for example. Recently, their newspaper staff has been publishing articles that are seen by administrative officials as inappropriate and unfit for their audience of readers. All of this controversy is based on a picture of a condom-wrapped banana and an 18-year-old student smoking hookah. Although it was viewed as provocative, it remained tasteful and received positive feedback from the student body and the staff. However, the district's secondary school executive director of curriculum and instruction, Carrie Lawler, said the photo violated the student code of conduct, and because of this, the act of censorship through prior review has been enacted. It seems absurd that students who offer opinions, supported by facts, on matters that are indeed present in the school could be interpreted as offensive and unsuitable for other students to observe and acknowledge. It is understandable as to why others would identify this as an issue, but to call it a "personnel issue" rather than admitting it is essentially the implementation of censorship, gives way to the fact that it is not the right decision.

Parents and adults tend to hide children and teenagers from the cruel events and truths of the world in order to protect and preserve our innocence, but by doing so, we are also being sheltered from reality. It is a taboo in our society to talk about relatively controversial issues because most of the time, they create controversy and an atmosphere open to conflicting opinions. But, perhaps if we were not so meek about expressing these beliefs, we can begin to put into effect. Take any protest, civil rights movement or crusade to support that argument. Once we learn to speak up, to acknowledge flaws and wrongdoings, then there is that sliver of hope that one mere idea can prosper into a full blown campaign for revolution.

In order to encourage realistic beliefs concerning our future and enforce positive change, we must consider what is deemed as newsworthy and what is not. Censorship is helpful in order to control negative influences and inappropriate behavior, but there also comes a time when some subjects need to be brought to light. We, as students, journalists, readers and members of the community need to consider this because if we do not, we will be left in the dark. As Kurt Vonnegut once wrote in his novel *Cat's Cradle*, "When a man becomes a writer, he takes on a sacred obligation to produce beauty and enlightenment and comfort at top speed," so, "For the love of God, please keep writing!"