

THE SPECTATOR

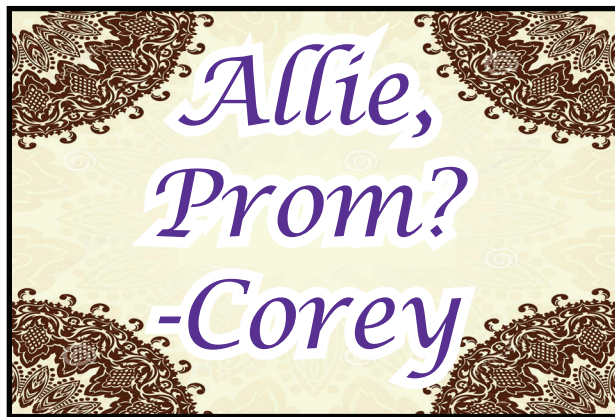
April 2015

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Berkley High School

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Ask Dr. Doctor Bennett

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

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

Who will Bennett go to prom with?

The wonderful Claire Schlussel!

Black or pinto?

Black.

What do you think of the prom theme?

I think Moroccan Escape will be a very good prom theme. It is good to have an interesting theme that is not overdone. If the prom theme is anything like the Moroccan Christmas party from *The Office*, it will be great.

I kinda like this kid who has red hair, drives a Jeep, and I even think he writes for our school newspaper. How should I approach talking to him?

First off, I cannot quite remember the name of the kid you are referring to, but he seems like a great guy. You should definitely talk to him. My advice would be to take it slow; he seems to have a bit of a mysterious personality, so his initial response to you is unpredictable. Anyway, good luck!

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

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

1. Dasani bottled water
2. Golden delicious apples
3. Alberta, Canada
4. Nook tablets
5. Multi-Grain Cheerios



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

Photos courtesy of logos.wikia and cic.ga

What do you think about Obama's foreign policy?

Although I do not exactly feel qualified to answer this question fully, I do believe that Obama's decision to normalize the United States's relationship with Cuba was a good move.

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Fantasy author Sir Terry Pratchett dies at 66

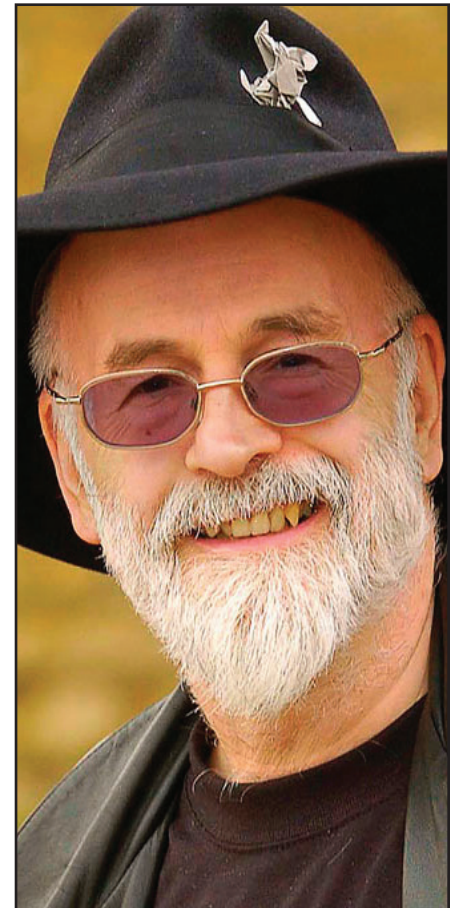
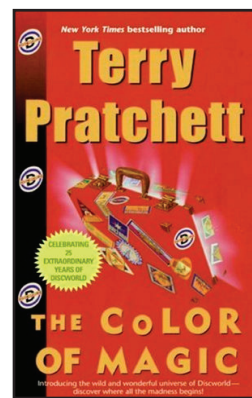
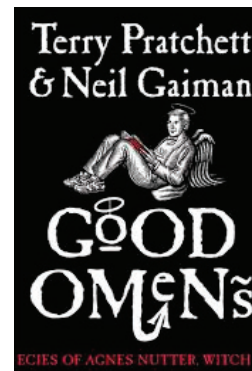
Kit Charlton '16, Opinion Editor

English fantasy and comedy author Sir Terry Pratchett died on March 12, 2015 at the age of 66 from Alzheimer's Disease. Pratchett was the best-selling English author of the 1990s, selling over 85 million copies in 37 languages. He authored the widely successful Discworld series, publishing on average two books a year since his first Discworld book, *The Color of Magic*, in 1983. His Discworld series told the story of a flat world situated on the backs of four giant elephants perched on top of an even larger sea turtle, swimming through space. Pratchett began the series in 1983 to "have fun with some of the clichés," making much of his work humorous or satiric. The Discworld series contains forty installments, with a forty-first scheduled to release in late 2015.

Pratchett suffered from a type of Alzheimer's which affected him only physically, allowing him to continue to write until his death, publishing 22 books and collections since his diagnosis in 2007. His later work included his first non-Discworld book since 1996, the critically acclaimed *Nation*. As an alternate history beginning after a devastating plague in the 1860s destroys the societal order, *Nation* won the Michael L. Printz Award in 2009. Media Specialist Mrs. Martha Spear said of Pratchett's work in *Nation*, "[Pratchett] was a master of the study of different cultures and how things can be turned upside down in a minute." Pratchett received a knighthood in 2009 for "services to literature." He comedically commented on his knighthood saying, "I suspect the 'services to literature' consisted of refraining to write any." His character and wit in his writing earned him many awards and drew millions of fans of all ages. Several fan conventions for the Discworld series have been organized since 1996, and international signing tours often followed book releases.

Pratchett announced his diagnosis with a rare form of early-onset Alzheimer's in 2007, describing it as an "embuggerance." In his later years, Pratchett heavily supported Alzheimer's research, donating \$1,000,000 toward the cause. Despite publicly saying he wished to die from assisted suicide, his death was from natural causes. After his death, his longtime assistant Rob Wilkins posted three final messages on his Twitter account, reading, "AT LAST SIR TERRY, WE MUST WALK TOGETHER," "Terry took Death's arm and followed him through the doors and onto the black desert under the endless night," and "The End." The tweets were a reference to the way the character of Death spoke in Pratchett's works. He is survived by his wife Lyn and their daughter Rhianna Pratchett, a games journalist and author.

Sir Terry Pratchett made meaningful contributions to the genres of fantasy and comedy writing. Larry Finlay of Transworld Publishers, Pratchett's publisher, in a statement said, "In over 70 books, Terry enriched the planet like few before him. As all who read him know, Discworld was his vehicle to satirize this world: he did so brilliantly, with great skill, enormous humour and constant invention." Pratchett's work will continue to influence the world far into the future. His life was a remarkable one, remaining active and sharp even as his "embuggerance" slowed him down. He will serve as a shining example of what the fantasy genre can be for decades to come.



Sir Terry Pratchett was a successful fantasy writer in England.

Photo courtesy of Campaign for Dignity in Dying and Book Worms Weekly

Germanwings plane crashes, investigation ongoing

Miles Berlin '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

A Germanwings plane crashed into the Swiss Alps on March 24. The plane was carrying 150 passengers, none of whom survived. So far, all evidence as to why the plane crashed points to the co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz.

After investigating Lubitz, it was found by investigators that he was severely depressed and was on medication. Investigators also found a document hidden in his apartment declaring that he was mentally unfit to work. One of two black box recorders were recovered from the plane. The box revealed how far the plane dropped from its cruising altitude along with a voice recording of the cockpit; this recording was leaked by a German newspaper.

The actual recording is not available to the public, but in the transcript, one can hear the other pilot banging on the locked door, telling Lubitz to open it. However, Lubitz stayed silent the whole time, as specified in the transcript. In a recent interview with Lubitz's ex-girlfriend, she told reporters that Lubitz had been planning this crash, so the whole world would "know his name." Yet other people, like his neighbors, said he was a quiet man who would not be capable of doing something so devastating.

There have been many peculiar incidents about this crash. A German soccer team was scheduled to be on the flight, but they had switched right before it took off. Many of the players released statements to their fans, saying they were safe and praying for the victims.

Another odd occurrence was that on the crash site, the investigators found a SIM card from a phone of someone on the plane. On the card was a video of the last few seconds before the plane crashed. The video is low quality and no individuals can be identified. The crew is still working on getting out all of the bodies to return them home. Once all of the bodies have been claimed, and the crew will start to search for the second black box, which

they believe to be buried deep underground due to the force of the crash.

The nature of this crash is tragic, and many airline companies are trying to put systems in place to prevent these tragedies, and so far only a few have been working.



Remains from the plane crash were found in the French Alps, days after the deadly plane crash.

Photo courtesy of BBC

The War on Terror continues: American troops sent to fight ISIS

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor and Malindi Lubinecky, '15 Editor-in-Chief

In early March, a recent poll that was conducted for the American public, made by Forbes, revealed that over half of the American population has begun to support the idea of potentially deploying troops to fight against ISIS influences in various Middle Eastern nations. According to an article by Niall McCarthy in Forbes, the reason behind the spike in people's recent support has reportedly been caused by citizens' beliefs that the implementation of air strikes alone will not suffice in ending ISIS forces from continuing terrorist acts. Nevertheless, Democrats and Republicans have remained divided on the subject, thus making them unable to come to any sort of viable compromise.

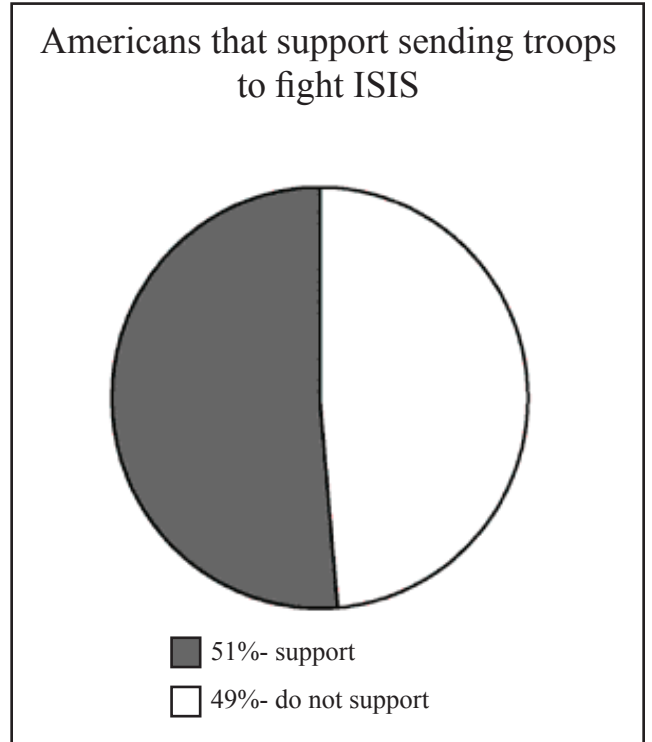
Recently, the rising power of extreme militant groups in the Middle East has become increasingly difficult to ignore. The controversy over this issue has created heightened debate between America's major political parties. The fight over what America should do as a nation to end ISIS' reign of terror has thus forced many vital political leaders to take military action into serious consideration. During an address to the nation that he delivered from the White House in September, President Barack Obama vowed to "degrade and ultimately destroy" ISIS. In the past few months, protests have begun to ensue across the nation to provoke Congress to take action. Many of these protests are motivated by religious activists in order to protect Assyrian Christians that have been displaced by ISIS invaders.

According to an article by Adam Chandler from *The Atlantic*, "An American-led coalition launched 17

airstrikes in Iraq...[on March 25]...hammering Islamic State positions in the northern city of Tikrit. President Barack Obama reportedly approved the U.S. strikes after a request from Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, on the condition that Iraqi government forces working closely with American troops assume primary command of the anti-ISIS operation." The approach of air strikes to defeat ISIS forces has killed more than 6,000 ally soldiers. However, more than 1,000 foreign fighters join ISIS monthly. The reason behind the gain in new recruits is due to propaganda that ISIS has been broadcasting, like the burning of a Jordanian pilot among other executions made public. These acts of violence are all part of an effort to create a Sharia law-based government in Iraq and Syria, controlled solely by the militant groups. Whether or not the citizens of these Middle Eastern nations affected by ISIS support the enforcement of the Sharia law or fear it, the act of terrorism needs to be dealt with immediately.

Though the world's leading governments have remained stagnant on the issue, citizens are taking action. On Twitter, many accounts that are affiliated with ISIS and other associated members have been actively propagating terrorism. Another method civilians have attempted in hopes to defeat ISIS is by essentially deconstructing the system and infiltrating the system by going undercover in order to discretely join the group.

In the meantime, the argument of sending soldiers continues to be discussed globally. It is necessary that an



understanding or solution to the issue will be constituted sometime in May. If not, the issue may expand to other nations and cause further destruction both morally, physically and politically.

Detroit Youth Employment initiative to kick off this summer

Maisy Cece '15, Copy Editor

This summer, the Silkman Foundation will be awarding \$500,000 in grants to two major organizations in the city of Detroit to support a city-wide youth employment initiative. This collaborative act, known as the Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) strategy, will allow Detroit's young adult population to participate in a variety of six-week summer job opportunities.

Through the GDYT initiative, a \$400,000 grant will be given to the nonprofit organization, City Connect Detroit. This grant will fund the nonprofit to administer the program, provide youth employment training and secure job placements, while also conducting basic worker evaluations. The second grant of \$100,000 will be going to the Philadelphia Youth Network, which was the first to bring Detroit a state-of-the-art online employment portal that was originally developed in Philadelphia.

The online portal, directed by City Connect, will allow perspective employees and employers to sign up for the Grow Detroit's Young Talent program and thus, through an algorithm, match up each individual young employee to a plethora of employers around the city. This is to ensure a better outcome of employees being matched to jobs that seem to be a right fit for them, both interest wise and financially. Through the program, employers will be able to teach young Detroit citizens the importance of work readiness training, as well as basic knowledge of payroll logic and smart financial ethics. Wages for each job depends

on age and program selection, but ranges primarily from \$7.50 to \$10 per hour. Through the program, youths are allowed to work up to 120 hours.

During the 2014 Mackinac Policy Conference, Mayor Mike Duggan proposed a goal during his 2015 term to find employment for 5,000 young adults between the ages of 14 and 24, in and around the city of Detroit. With that, he pledged that the city would pay half of the \$2,000 cost for the program on behalf of each of the 5,000 persons employed this summer.

In the summer and fall of 2014, the program placed 1,897 Detroit youths in paid work experiences. Thus far, only 1,040 positions remain in the program for this summer.

If interested in joining the program for this summer, visit the City Connect website. Applications are to be submitted online or hard copy at the City Connect headquarters by May 30, 2015.



**GROW DETROIT'S
YOUNG TALENT**

Why I'm not all about that bass:

Popular singer sends wrong message

Zoe Blake '17, Assistant Photo Editor

While the majority of people would opt to promote self-esteem and feminism, it is apparent that not all celebrities are supportive of these causes. Most recently, artist Meghan Trainor has been producing lyrics that perpetuate sentiments against both of these ideas.

Within her biggest hit "All About That Bass," Trainor promotes feeling good about oneself, but only if one has a more curvaceous figure. While this song may help build self-esteem for women who may be unhappy with their curves, she blatantly disses "skinny b*?!^%\$," or those who are thin, referring to them as "stick figure silicone Barbie doll[s]," potentially hurting the feelings of those with smaller builds.

However, it is extremely baffling that Trainor would say these things, because in an interview once, Trainor said, "I wasn't strong enough to have an eating disorder...I

tried to go anorexic for a good three hours. I ate ice and celery, but that's not even anorexic. And I quit. I was like, 'Ma, can you make me a sandwich? Like, immediately.'" It seems that since Trainor was not "strong enough" to have an eating disorder, she chose to insult those sick with destructive diseases, instead of promoting a more positive acceptance of one's own body. This is unacceptable because her main listeners are teenagers who make up for 95 percent of those with serious eating disorders like bulimia and anorexia. Some may say that these lyrics could promote seeking help for their sickness, but Trainor fails to recognize that eating disorders are not a choice, but a disease.

Not only does Trainor seem to not accept all women for their unique attributes, unless they look like her, she also depicts the idea that female bodies are here for men's pleasure. In the song, she says, "Boys like a little more booty to hold at night," stating that a woman's body only exists for men. She not only pursues anti-feminist ideas within "All About That Bass" but inside her new song,

"Dear Future Husband" as well. She croons, "I'll be the perfect wife, buying groceries, buy-buying what you need," reinforcing that women are here specifically to fulfill a man's needs. Throughout the music video, she is seen baking and cleaning in the kitchen.

Junior Hana Coon commented, "Clearly, the video was going for a mid-twentieth century vibe with the hair and the makeup and the seductive floor-scrubbing, but combined with the equally outdated lyrics, it gives a message that is far from empowering. Besides implying that a woman's place still is in the kitchen, it also goes further and suggests that a woman's body and sexuality

should be considered rewards for her husband if he is good to her that day, you know, like opening doors for her." Coon continued, "Women are not just sitting around and waiting to offer themselves to men who let them win an argument that day. This is an incredibly harmful message,

as it perpetuates this objectification of women that is still prominent today." Coon acknowledges that the message Trainor seems to portray is counterintuitive to what it might, at first listen, seem to be implying.

Trainor also speaks about a woman's supposedly inferior place in the world in her song, "Title." She recites, "You gotta treat me like a trophy, put me on the shelf," shamelessly asking, very clearly, to be displayed as if she were nothing more than a prize. Yet again, she sends the message that a woman's worth is defined by the male gender. In the song she also begs a man to "Give me that title," which implies that committed relationships are something that men grant to women, not something that men and women decide together.

Trainor needs to see that her ideas about a woman's place in the world are not what they should be. Trainor, as a popular artist, should acknowledge the influence she has on young listeners and seek to promote healthy attitudes concerning body image for all and messages of support for female empowerment in her music.

"[Dear Future Husband] is an incredibly harmful message, as it perpetuates this objectification of women that is still prominent today."

- Hana Coon

No women on major U.S. currency: our money needs an update

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

A group of women out of New York City have started a movement to put a woman on U.S. currency. The penny, nickel, dime and quarter, as well as the 1, 5, 10, 20 and 100 dollar bills all have men on them who were important in U.S. history. Considering women have played a major role in our nation's history, it is clear that there should be women represented on our currency as well.

Just because there have not been any women presidents (yet) in our nation's history, it does not mean women have not been important. Although presidents and founding fathers are influential, people involved in civil right movement have an essential place in the great story of the United States.

Changing a piece of currency is not just a proposal to symbolize the progress of women in this country; the change is to update the government. Ever since women gained the right to vote, women have had equal rights. Therefore, women should be equally represented just as men are on currency, because they are equally worthy. There are nine major pieces of currency, implies that by not putting a woman on any of them, indicating that no woman is considered to be one of the nine most important people in U.S history.

The idea of updating the government can also be applied to the fact that there are no African Americans on U.S. money. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was clearly important to shaping the country that we know today, so why is he not on a bill or coin?

One major issue with changing the face on one of the pieces of currency is that one has to be taken off. The two main candidates to be replaced are Andrew Jackson and Benjamin Franklin. Jackson was very popular during his time in office, but his presidency is now regarded more negatively, because of the recession and the Trail of Tears which happened under his leadership. Jackson was also opposed to paper money altogether during his life.

Franklin did a little of everything during his lifetime. He is remembered mostly for inventing and discovering many things such as bifocals and electricity, as well as being the United States Ambassador to France. Although he is known as being a great person in general, he likely did not do as much for the U.S. as some of the women candidates to take his spot on the 100 dollar bill.

Advocates for putting a woman on the 20 dollar bill have named 15 women who they believe should be considered. Some of the most well-known candidates are civil rights activist Rosa Parks; First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt; Harriet Tubman, who helped on the underground railroad; and feminist Susan B. Anthony.

While placing a woman on our money may seem like a harmless, yet necessary move, some still resist the possibility. Junior Diamond Bell's first inclination was that "There are no women presidents though." She continued to explain that she would favor putting an important woman on the currency, but it would take some getting used too.

Putting a woman on U.S currency has been needed for a long time. Women have supposedly had equal rights since 1920, so there is no reason why they should not have an equal opportunity to be represented on our currency.



Civil rights champion Rosa Parks is a popular candidate to appear on paper money.

Knock out bullying: make a change for the better

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

In movies, books and other media outlets, bullying is portrayed as getting swirlies, receiving wet willies, being shoved into lockers, and stealing lunch money. The bullies are usually popular and attractive athletes, or intimidating, manipulating figures. As a result of students being reinforced that this is the “normal” depiction of bullying, some have become oblivious to the fact that, while no one is being literally shoved into lockers, bullying is not an issue of the past and people are not aware of the type that goes on here.

A lot of people are under the impression that bullies are inherently bad kids. What most students fail to recognize is that almost everyone has either acted as the bully or been the bullied, and in grades 8-12, an average of 33 percent of student engage in a bullying scenario regularly, according to Bullying Statistics. Most of the time, the bully does not even realize that their words can be hurtful, or how their actions constitute bullying. Anything that is said or done to make another person feel badly about themselves can be considered bullying.

Often, there tends to be a grey area when what is considered teasing then becomes what is considered bullying. However, people cross the line into bullying too frequently. “Any type of teasing that impedes on someone else [is bullying],” junior Nik Stahl said. People stop empathizing with the friend that they are teasing because they believe they have the ability to say hurtful things without it affecting the ‘victim’ since they are close. If someone is clearly not enjoying being messed with, an innocent joke at one’s expense can quickly become hurtful. While this is not the way bullying is usually conveyed in modern culture, it is a form of someone being personally attacked.

Even if bullying is recognized, a lot of students do not take it seriously. Recently, a

student anonymously said, “Bullying is actually really funny.” While this kid may be good at heart, and he referring to bullying as teasing, he disregards the fact that true, harmful bullying is taking place, thinking that the situation is only innocent fun. While the bully or bullies in the situation walk away and do not think twice about what was said, the pain of being personally attacked lingers with a person, and makes him or her more insecure than the typical high schooler is already.

Compromising feelings for laughs even occurs between students and those with special needs. Unlike in stereotypical movies, the intentions are not often to humiliate the student, but to get a laugh for one’s personal benefit. However, the comical intentions do not prevail over the fact that a student who is already at a social disadvantage is being emotionally hurt by someone who is more socially cognizant than him or her. While students who are a part of the special education program here may interact with peers differently, it does not mean that their feelings do not matter. Everyone is everyone’s responsibility.

People need to become more aware of the fact that bullying is still a major problem whether or not it is noticeable. We all need to make an effort, as a community, to make the time spent at school more bearable by being nicer to one another. This does not require much effort from anyone, besides filtering a bit more of what is said, and kindly pointing out when someone has gone too far. Most people have been on both sides of the situation. From experiencing feeling victimized, it should be obvious that one laugh is never worth hurting someone.



165-year-old congressman dies in Senate chambers

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

BREAKING NEWS: 165-year-old congressman Iam C. Redible, collapsed late last night while giving a speech attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, for the 76th time.

Congressman Redible was first elected at age 18 in 1868, and served the great state of Texas ever since. Before being elected, Redible fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War, which explains why Texas then elected him three years after, as Redible had dubbed it, “the war of northern aggression.” In Redible’s 147-year term, he has witnessed many historical political changes take place, most of which he was on the wrong side of.

In 1877, Redible’s first bill he introduced as a congressman was the infamous Jim Crow Laws, which kept African Americans from having full civil rights. He smartly used the ‘three-fifths’ compromise of the Constitution, saying, “If our founding fathers thought [explicit] were only three-fifths of a person, who are we to reinterpret that?”

In 1920, when women were granted the right to vote, Redible campaigned with anti women’s suffrage as a key part of his platform, and still won by a landslide. In fact, Redible took home an unprecedented 95 percent of the female vote that year.

Thirty four years later, at the ripe young age of 104, Redible spearheaded an all night filibuster in an attempt to prevent the famous Brown v. Board of Education ruling from taking effect, in which he famously said, “History will reflect poorly on those against segregation in America.” The filibuster failed, and once again, he was on the wrong side of history, but as evidenced by his next 61 years in congress, neither Redible nor the voters cared.

Fast forward to 2008, when one of Redible’s many great grandsons, this one traced

back to be the lovechild of one of Redible’s many slave-master affairs, Barack Obama, was elected as President. When Redible was told that he was related to President Obama, he could only say the word ‘no’ for the next three weeks. Coincidentally, this put Redible on the right side of history for a change; when asked if he would vote to repeal the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, Redible uttered the only word he could at the time, ‘no.’

Outside of the congressional chambers, Redible had a very close relationship with FOX News. He often appeared on his other great grandson’s show, *The O’Reilly Factor*, and had the honor of being FOX News’ most mentioned congressman. Whether he preferred Bill O’Reilly or Barack Obama, two of his many grandsons, Redible went on an incoherent rant about how Obama is ruining this country— which lasted around eight minutes.

Redible’s legacy will be continued by Iam A. Lsodumb, another old white man, who now holds the honor of oldest congressman. In the days of mourning, think not of Redible’s death, but of his life, and how he lived it. Redible is living proof that we literally (yes, literally) could not care less who we elect.



Redible defends segregation at Little Rock in 1957.

Photo courtesy of Will Counts and Edited by Zoe Blake

Watch your language: words do hurt

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Conversation is a basic staple in our everyday lives. What one accomplishes during this exchange of thoughts and opinions, however, is based not only on what one says, but how one says it. Recently, individuals have used the words “gay,” “retarded” and “raped” out of context in normal conversation at school, at home and in public. Society in the 21st century has adapted the standard, shared vocabulary to include these words, therefore desensitizing people to their true meaning.

Phrases containing these socially incorrect words are plentiful. Some include: “That’s so gay,” “I got raped by that test,” and “You are so retarded.” These are just a few of the common slurs people hear on a daily basis that use these three words which bear very serious connotations in an intentionally or unintentionally immature and insensitive manner. The way these words are perceived can range anywhere from a joke to an insult, even when used in a mature and appropriate context. At BHS, these words are used, according to a poll taken of a sample of the student body and staff, in a joking matter 70 percent of the time, as an insult or inappropriately 22 percent of the time, and in proper context only eight percent of the time. Senior Morgan Rebori said, “It really bothers me when I hear these words said at school, and I have tried many times to make people stop, but they just brush me off and say it’s not that big of a deal.” These words have a permanent stigma attached to them and are not only harsh, but harmful and hurtful to those whom these terms directly apply and to those at whom they are aimed.

Surveying the BHS staff and student body indicated some revealing statistics regarding this issue. A significant 97 percent understand the true meaning of the words gay, retarded and rape, while only a miniscule three percent do not. If this is true, then one would assume that these knowledgeable individuals would refrain from using these hateful words in a derogatory way, but that is not necessarily the case. The data regarding whether or not members of BHS hear demeaning words said at school showed that 100 percent of the individuals surveyed do hear these terms said here as either a joke, as an insult or in another inappropriate context. This indicates that even though the majority of individuals know the meaning of these words, they still choose to use them, regardless if they know its use to be offensive.

Freshman Emma Stahl said, “We, as a school, need to work together in order to prevent the use of these words in an inappropriate way. Whether it is calling someone out when they say these words, or you yourself stop saying them, something needs to change.”

Vocalizing these terms in any out of context, derogatory way creates a lack of respect towards those who are victimized by even just hearing them. One who is mentally handicapped, homosexual or has experienced sexual assault gets demeaned and directly insulted when people say such things without even giving their use a second thought. There is no fairness for people whom these words directly affect or those who associate these words to themselves. In associating these words with a negative connotation, it turns being offensive and targeting people into the accepted norm, and that itself, is unacceptable.

As a society, people need to strive to not implement these words in any setting, even the most basic of conversation. The issue of these terms being a part of our everyday speech is more of a matter of how these terms are said, but it would be even more beneficial to not voice them at all. We need to create a culture of respect towards different types of people and the lives that are lived distinctly unique to ours, starting with our language. Language may seem like a basic right, but it is also the first step towards change. Special Education teacher Ms. Megan Colligan said, “Bringing awareness to this issue, and people being more cognizant of what they say, will be extremely helpful in the long term process of change.”

Ceasing the use of these words in any inappropriate context will have a powerful impact and can be the action that gets the ball rolling towards positive change. First language, then media coverage, and then policy changes will create respect and protection for the people to whom these terms apply, and then hopefully, this seemingly progressive nation will begin making a more positive environment for all individuals, especially those who are directly affected by these terms. The world can then move towards equal rights for those who are often left behind or receive a lack of respect that all individuals deserve.

Out of 60 students surveyed...

97%

of students have knowledge of the true meanings of the words “gay,” “retarded” and “rape”

100%

of students hear these words spoken at school regularly

57%

of students personally say these words jokingly

52%

of students are offended when they hear these words

The fatal flaw in the professional world

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Feature Editor

When another person’s life or mental stability rests in the hands of an individual, it is vital that they can be trusted. In many professions, like being a pilot, there are very few buffers between innocent citizens and a potentially mentally ill person. At the Germanwings airline March 26, a co-pilot deliberately brought down a plane due to mental illnesses. Due to this, it should be obvious that the flaw of lacking psychological testing, in the professional world, needs to be addressed in order to prevent this lapse in knowledge/testing to hurt any more people.

Pilots are trusted with flying over 150 people overseas, and have the complete fate of all the passengers resting in their hands. On April 3, a Germanwings plane was deliberately crashed a little north of Nice, France by the co-pilot, and it was later revealed that he was mentally unstable. The airline did not know this, even though there were records that were found after the fact saying that he was severely depressed, and that his depression was not under control. While he had attended therapy, the airline did not have knowledge of this because of their failure to implement psychological testing or even look into the mental health history of their employees. The lack of such a vital test resulted in the death of 150 innocent lives.

Another profession that does not require psychological testing, but most definitely should, is teachers. Teachers, for students of all ages, are trusted to help shape the lives of children who are only in the beginning stages of developing their identity. At such a young age, kids can be easily influenced, and it is important that these influences are positive. School is where most of a child’s time is spent, and if one of the people he or she regards as a mentor or important influence negatively affects the children put into that

teacher’s care, it can be potentially scarring.

One of the jobs that is most influential to another person’s mental being, a therapist, does not require any sort of mental health testing. Therapists are supposed to help someone conquer personal emotional and mental issues, but if a therapist has serious ones themselves, they will be unable to effectively mend a person’s psyche. Therapists sometimes have to help their patient learn to think in new and positive ways, but if the therapist is unstable and primarily negative, they could potentially take an adverse toll on their patients’ mental health that is already suffering.

Requiring psychological testing has been thought of for most professions, yet, it has never been implemented since it does not guarantee that anything substantial is necessarily found. Even though being mentally tested will not mean that no incidents will occur, it will set off red flags for those who really should not be placed in a job requires a great amount of responsibility, and it may catch something that could be dealt with before any serious mishaps or endangerment takes place. Sophomore Jon Cher agrees, “I think if [professionals] are responsible for the lives of other people they should be tested...it can’t hurt.” Although testing may be expensive, this potential life-saving step is more beneficial in the long run.

It is vital that psychological testing is implemented for those professions whose actions directly affect the lives of the people with whom they are working. Too many lives have already been compromised because of the lack of mental health testing, and it is time for change.

The show will go on: orchestras continue to shine

Adam Yaker '17, Assistant-Opinion Editor

The award winning orchestra program experienced a loss last month when orchestra teacher, Mr. John Robertson, unexpectedly took a leave of absence. With a lot on the line with upcoming festivals, the music department and administration acted quickly. Former student teacher for the orchestras, Ms. Natalie Frakes, was appointed as the full time teacher and conductor of the program.

The orchestra department consists of three different orchestras: Symphony, the most elite amongst the three; Concert, the second level group; and Simfonia, the third tier group. All three of these are under Frakes' control, and she works to improve their skills and prepare them for their orchestra events.

During the frantic time before festival under new direction, senior Harrison Saunders stepped up and fulfilled a needed leadership role to get his fellow orchestra members prepared. "I knew when he left we had festival in the next two to three weeks, and I would hate to see it start falling apart because we didn't know if we were going or not," Saunders said. "I had to drill it into people's heads that we still had the chance to go," he continued.

The Symphony Orchestra's festival took place on March 14 at Clarkston High School. Despite the madness leading up to their most anticipated event of the year, the talented group executed a superior performance on-stage. The performance was judged by three separate judges, who each give overall score of one through five (one being the best and five being the worst) that is composed of many categories of sub scores. Berkley's group received the highest scores from each of the judges, leaving them with a superior one rating. This advanced the orchestra to the State competition which will take place on May 2.

Mixin' it up at the annual Variety Show

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

The annual Variety Show, on April 2, highlighted some of the school's most talented students. From an array of musical performances to other unique acts, this year's talents did not fail to put the 'variety' in the Variety Show.

The show kicked off to a rockin' start with BHS's very own rock band, Blew. They were then followed by a plethora of other different musical acts, which included the Schilderout brothers, whose performance led them to win. "I thought it was fun to see all the talent that Berkley has to offer. Anyone that has the guts to go up on stage in front of people and perform has my respect," junior Ryan Schilderout commented.

Although the setlist was mostly composed of music talents, there were also other acts that kept the audience interested and on the edge of their seats. "It was all really interesting and enjoyable to watch," junior Nolan Givan commented. From an animated dance from Josie Kaltz to a compelling monologue by Andy McIntire, there was not a dull moment.

Like most other school events, this production could not have been successful without the hard work from the students in Student Leadership. They auditioned acts, marketed the event and ensured that the show in general ran smoothly. "The turnout was great, and everyone seemed to love the performances. It's a great way for the student body to show their talents," senior and Student Body Vice President Leah Frankel said.

This year, much like the previous ones, surprised many students and teachers by showing the wondrous talents of students at BHS. With this annual show, the students will have more opportunities to showcase the talents they have to offer.



SPRAAANGG BREAAAAK:

Students find fun in the sun...and on the couch

Josh Radom '16, Managing Editor

Spring Break is the ultimate vacation. It symbolizes the release from hard work associated with second semester and horrid weather that came with the previous winter months; it also makes kids hopeful for summer's arrival. Because Spring Break is such an anticipated and eventful week in so many high schoolers' lives, there are a multitude of different options for enjoying one of the best weeks of the year. Among the most popular travel destinations for students this year were Panama City Beach, Florida, the Bahamas and the native Berkley area. Here are what the days were like at each location from the perspective of a spring breaker.

PCB: PCB is famous for their out-of-control, movie like party scenes. This year, a group of seniors took the trip to enjoy their break down in the Sunshine State. As Robyn Fryc recounts, her day began with waking up and enjoying breakfast on their beach front patio. They then soaked up the sun on the beach and met up with some of their friends and swam, taking advantage of the gorgeous weather. Their day then concluded with a trip to their friend's house to hangout and party spring break away. Fryc said that, "We all bonded because we weren't that close coming onto the trip, and [we] created some great memories." So, when looking for a fun Florida vacation spot next year, consider PCB as the travel destination.

Bahamas: BHS seniors have been traveling to the Bahamas for years, and the tradition continued this year. A group of seniors ventured to the island getaway for a week of paradise this past spring break. A day at Breeze (the hotel at which they stayed) as Grace Hammerle describes, began with a breakfast buffet with all her friends. Following breakfast, they would go back to the room and prep for tanning and lounging on the beach. They then would have lunch, which included hamburgers, hot dogs and conch fritters, as well as beverages and would return to the beach where there was a DJ hosting a party. Hammerle added that there were a ton of new people from all over the country with which they danced, partied, jetskied and spent time. From the beach, they would either take a party-like bus into town to a straw market and buy Bahamian souvenirs, or relax in their rooms until it was time to get ready to go to the club, a new one each night at that. Some even ended the night at a casino or back in bed preparing for another memorable day. Hammerle concluded by simply calling the experience, "the best week of our lives."

Staying Home: For those of who cannot swing the ultimate getaway, a break at home is never a bad option. Spring is the perfect time to begin participating in outdoor activities like sports or hostage. One could also use this break to start or catch up on Netflix shows. You can never go wrong with some junk food and a six-season series to get you through the week with happiness. Senior Eric Braun recounts his break as being a lot of "mommy-son time." He said, "We went to ice-cream and did a lot of fun activities together." So, if you are worried about having to stay home for Spring Break, don't be, because you and your mom will get very close.



Photos courtesy of Grace Hammerle and Robyn Fryc

Y'all Nasty: Clean up your Bathroom Act

Annie Silve '17, Co-Assistant Photo Editor

You might think that people do their business in the business box and immediately get out. Unfortunately, this basic task has one major flaw: Girls, and they are gross. To quote the legendary line from the late TV show, *That's so Raven*, "Y'all nasty." I have spent two years in this wonderful school and I have witnessed things that no person should ever have to see.

Not too long ago, I was enjoying my bathroom break when I suddenly heard a faint laugh in the stall next to mine. As time passed, the laughter grew louder and louder. Her laughter got me thinking; besides looking at her phone, what would anyone be laughing at while in the bathroom by themselves? So, the moral of the story is that nobody should ever be laughing alone in the bathroom; it will make others feel awkward and uncomfortable.

A little while back, I walked into the stall and noticed something that was borderline vomitus. For those who do not know, in the girls' bathroom, there is a box put there for "feminine products" and occasionally those bins are not used properly or ignored. I am not going to go in to detail, but I will say that if there is a bin specifically for "lady things," then do not put that thing on top of the bin, especially when it does not belong there. Take the extra 0.45 seconds to put that thing inside of the bin and not on top of it. Thank you.

Although this does not seem too horrible, it is pretty repulsive. Many times in my BHS bathroom experiences I have been a bystander. As we all know, bathrooms are not the cleanest places in the world. However, there are ways to prevent the distasteful germs that could access your fingers. Everyday, people walk out of the bathroom stalls and do not wash their hands. Many times, I have seen this happen and I have not said anything. I secretly want to ask them why in the world one would not want to wash their hands after doing who knows what in the bathroom. Instead, I just stare and quietly judge to myself.

Last year, I was enjoying myself, chatting with some friends in the bathroom when an "old" friend proceeded to walk out and neglect to wash her hands. I ignored this fact and went about my life. Seconds later the girl walks up to me, said hello and began to touch my hand noticing my rings and complimenting them. After she left, I realized that she never washed her hands after doing her business. That is one of the grossest things one can do while in the bathroom.

I am not the only one that has encountered unsanitary bathroom experiences. Our favorite custodian shared one of his funny yet disgusting bathroom stories.

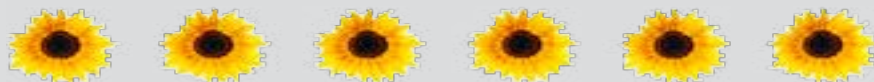
Steve, the custodian: A couple years ago I noticed that the other janitors and I kept cleaning lipstick off of the mirrors in the girls' bathroom. These girls would write on and then kiss the mirrors. Once we discovered who the girls were, we brought them into the bathroom with me, the other janitors and the administrators and addressed the issue. We then (in front of them) stuck the mops in the toilets and began to clean the mirrors off, convincing the girls that that is how we clean the mirrors that they kiss.

What to look forward during Spring

Justin Flood '17, Circulation Manager

As the leaves begin to grow on the trees and the weather starts to heat up, students begin to feel the effects of spring fever. This craze brings out all kinds of happy feelings in people that go along with the temperature. With the warm weather approaching, here are also some of the hot events to look forward to:

Senior Lunch-in- Most underclassmen have upperclassmen that they look up to, which is why the senior lunch-in is a great opportunity to allow these students to meet their mentors. During the lunch-in, seniors are auctioned off to underclassmen where they get to meet and enjoy a lunch together. The most timid and shy freshmen who adore certain seniors are finally given the opportunity to spend time with their selected senior and discuss things they may have in common. This event is a great way for underclassmen to learn the ropes of high school from the most experienced at BHS, while also possibly creating new friendships.



Film Festival- The news and broadcasting class puts on a show that demonstrates all of their photography and cinematography skills put into work throughout the last couple of months. The student-loved comedies bring laughter to the crowd year after year, as well as an appropriate mix of drama and solemnity. Senior Brian Domzalski said, "I am really excited for this year's film fest. People should definitely get excited." Students love getting featured and watching their friends in each video. A break from class is just an added bonus to being able to enjoy an entertaining show. All look forward to the Film Fest to see the work that the news and broadcasting class has done in preparation for the important occasion.



Powerpuff- This student leadership event is similar to the one earlier this year, where girls had the chance to play in a flag football game. However, during this occasion, boys are given the opportunity to play in the sport not offered to them at school: volleyball. The game is very competitive with boys trying to prove themselves as men on the volleyball court. Junior Jacob Murphy said, "I cannot wait for the tournament. It is about time we [men] get the chance to show off our volleyball skills. I play to win." Whether it is for fun or for sheer determination to win, guys who sign up are extremely competitive, and this makes for an exciting experience.



Prom- Prom is probably the most anticipated event by juniors and seniors during their high school careers. With the occasion in the horizon, students are frantically trying to figure out who they are going with. A lot of thought and creativity goes into promposals, which is why everyone loves seeing and taking part in them. From the reveal of the theme to the actual night itself, prom is always on students' minds. Junior Andrew Stock said, "I am very excited for prom. From everything I have heard about, I can expect a great day." The amount of preparation from student leadership to produce this eventful night is astounding and most appreciated. Adjusting their mindsets for a Moroccan Escape, students and staff are looking forward to the big day.

The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of April

Promposals

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

If you can't tell by now, 'promposal' season is finally here. It's spring time, the sun is out and 'promance' is in the air. For a few weeks in mid-April, students use signs, illusions and even school newspapers (see the cover page) to ask their fellow classmates to the school prom. Junior Ian Melrose said, "I love the excitement that it builds for the entire school, and I love the happiness it brings us all... It's like Christmas!" Promposals often vary in degrees of flash, props and timing, but the success rate is (hopefully) sky high. Promposals let us know that prom is right around the corner, and with a theme as captivating as Moroccan Escape, how can that not be exciting? Prom and promposals are a way for students to take a step back from school and homework, and allow kids to focus their attention on, dare I say, more important things. Promposals are a celebration of friendship, teamwork and happiness for all involved; so sit back, grab a drink and constantly refresh your Instagram, because, people, it's promposal season.

Insurgent

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

If one has not yet gone to see *Insurgent*, the second installment of the *Divergent* series, save them some time and money, and don't see it. This movie was mildly entertaining at best with its less than genius plot line, but it also suffered from bad acting, overly emotional scenes and cliché lines. Another aspect of this movie that made it hard to watch was the slow motion and intense graphics that were shown when Tris, the main character, enters into the simulations. The makers of the film seemed as though they were just trying way too hard to be cool and edgy. Rotten Tomatoes also gave the movie a poor review, with a 31 percent critics rating, a low score for a below average movie. While the flick may entertain viewers for a few hours, many will walk out of the movie unimpressed.

Jordan Spieth

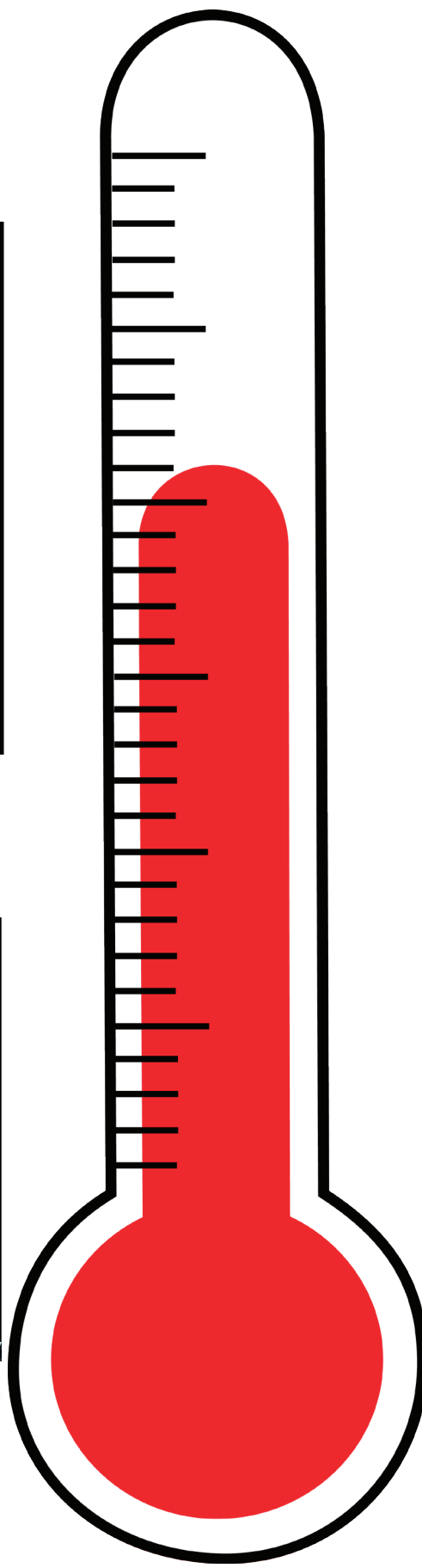
Adam Yaker '17, Assistant-Opinion Editor

"My ultimate goal is to win the Masters," professional golfer Jordan Spieth said when he was just 14 years old in a golf profile interview. On April 12, 2015, seven years later, this promising golfer fulfilled his dream as he seized the title at the Masters Tournament at Augusta National Course in Augusta, Georgia. Not only did he receive his Green Jacket, but the 21-year-old was recognized as the second youngest player to ever win the tournament, with only Tiger Woods ahead of him, younger by just five months. On the 17th hole of the final round, he reached the score of 19 under par, which had never been achieved in this tournament before. Although he finished out with the winning score of 18 under, Spieth still managed to tie the all-time score set by Woods in 1997. The Dallas, Texas native received 1.8 million dollars in his first major win. With a successful start to his career, it will be interesting to see what the future holds for Spieth.

Slow walking

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

There is nothing I hate more than people who walk slowly. Throughout the halls, there are many slow walking offenders. If you decide to have a casual, slow-paced walk on the side of the halls, that's perfectly okay. But seriously, just suddenly stopping in the middle of the hall? C'mon people! In my opinion, the "I'm going to walk as slow as a turtle in the middle of the hall" kind of person is the most annoying. But, the "I'm going to stop right here for no reason" type of person finishes at a close second. It annoys everyone when people do not have somewhere to go, and they walk so incredibly slow. There are a variety of things to do and friends to see in the short five minute passing time. So please, do everyone a favor and either walk faster or get out of the way.



16 THE SPECTATOR

Starbucks attempts to race together: CEO activist shut down by the public

Madison Huff '15, Student Life Editor

Starbucks recently made efforts to have customers discuss the often avoided topic of race, but the company ended up creating controversy nationwide with their Race Together campaign initiative. Something as simple as writing #racetogether on drinks sold to customers at every Starbucks location in the U.S. beginning in March stirred up fuss amongst employees, customers and across all forms of social media.

This campaign even caught the attention of the famous satiric television series, *Saturday Night Live*. *SNL* featured a fake commercial that targeted the “disastrous” attempt Starbucks made to increase racial awareness in the U.S. The feature on *SNL* depicted the campaign as a complete failure as well as mocking Starbucks’ effort to make a real difference. English and Diversity Council teacher Mrs. Cindy Henderson said, “They attempted to get [people] talking about a problem that has, unfortunately, been in our country for a very long time. Just starting that conversation is a very positive thing.” Even though Starbucks received a plethora of negative critics, there are individuals who support and respect the company’s attempt at progress. The company perceived this *SNL* feature as a negative attack on the #racetogether initiative, as well as being harmful to its reputation and progress.

For Americans who watch *SNL*, it altered much of the public’s opinion on the idea of the Race Together campaign. The message received was that this CEO activism by Starbucks is not only unwelcomed, but should be negatively criticized as well. Some people agreed with the message portrayed by *SNL* and did not acknowledge the company’s initial purpose behind the campaign.

Many individuals even showed their distaste towards the #racetogether movement on Twitter. For instance, a man named Jamil Smith tweeted, “The only folks happy about Starbucks baristas discussing race with customers are the suits who run it. Feel-

good liberalism at its worst.” This is just an example of what the millions of hate tweets directed toward Starbucks and its #racetogether campaign were like. The backlash toward Starbucks became even too much for the senior executive, who temporarily deactivated his account to avoid the negative posts and commentary.

The opposing reactions ceased the writing of #racetogether on cups after just one week. Mrs. Henderson added, “There has to be a certain level of comfort achieved in order for people to have conversations dealing with such a touchy subject, especially due to fear of offending others.” As a nation we have had immense progress over the past decades, but there is always room for improvement. Fox News writer Juan Williams said, “But even in this new age of a far more diverse America, racial progress can only happen when we become more honest, less embarrassed, less content to stay in our comfort zone and snicker at our cynical thoughts.” However, the year long Race Together campaign will continue other parts of its program. Additional continuous efforts include forum discussions and special sections in *USA Today*.

The CEO’s activism, however, was commended by some because certain individuals argued that Starbucks is seeking to exert political influence in a refreshingly transparent way. The CEO of Starbucks is widely known as one of this generation’s biggest CEO activists. His powerful status gives him the audience and resources needed to make steps forward. Many believe his motive for the Race Together program was a marketing scam or PR exercise while others think the reality behind the program is to use his power for the good of many. Whatever the motive behind this campaign was, it can be understood that Starbucks attempted to make a positive change, but whether or not the world was ready for such serious dialogue with their morning coffee remains unclear.

The world of tomorrow: coming advancements in science

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

Today, it is hard to determine where America stands in the field of science because advancements are minor or only affect a small number of people. Besides a bigger iPhone, what gifts has science and technology brought to the world in the last couple of years? Where exactly is science going? Has any progress actually been made? While significant changes may not be evident to everybody just yet, the field of science will be accomplishing more major breakthroughs in just a matter of years.

The most significant of the things to come is the compact fusion reactor. The battle for a clean source of energy may soon come to an end, as Lockheed Martin, an American company specializing in aerospace, defense, security and advanced technology, is developing said reactor. As they aim to “restart the atomic age,” they are researching and developing a device capable of producing energy from nuclear fusion. The greatest aspect of these fusion reactors is how small they are. Instead of occupying a building, it is only the size of a truck. Thomas McGuire, head of the Skunk Works Compact Fusion Project, said in a video explaining the project that, “The small [size] is the reason we can do this quickly. If something is small, you can build up momentum, you can develop it fast... we think we can get to a prototype in five years.” McGuire added, “This isn’t online by 2100, this is online by the time—I can’t even retire after we finish this.” Once the fusion reactor is completed, the world will have access to a truly clean source of energy. Mr. Scott Doty, a science teacher at BHS, said, “If we have one of this size now, how long until it gets to the size of a microwave? We would never have to worry about electricity again. If it’s not too expensive you can make a small one [to power cars]. Why would you need a battery?” The fusion reactor opens up a wide range of possibilities and practical applications that could change the world.

Another amazing invention is the Argus II, a new retinal implant known as the bionic eye. While blindness has always seemed improbable, if not impossible, to cure altogether; recent scientific developments have made recovery achievable. The implant allows people

that have gone blind from retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder, to see again. The implant allows patients to see patterns of light, which they will be able to better interpret through practice over time. The implant changed the life of Allen Zderad, a man from Minnesota who was able to see his wife for the first time in ten years. A similar implant, developed by Bionic Vision Australia, was given to a Hawaiian woman, and she regained partial vision. According to Dr. Gregg Kokame, from Honolulu, Hawaii, the patient will recover and be able to detect motion in two months as well as see up to nine colors.

Like something straight out of a science-fiction movie, virtual reality will soon be available to consumers. Born as a crowdfunding project on Kickstarter back on Aug. 12, the Oculus Rift is a virtual reality headset that puts users right into the action. Its purpose is to deliver a first-person experience in video games like no other. For the first time, players can enter virtual worlds and truly feel like they are a part of it, as the Oculus Rift tracks head movements for a heightened sense of realism. After multiple prototypes, Palmer Luckey, the inventor of the Oculus Rift, has confirmed the release date of a consumer version to be sometime during the winter of 2015.

It should be kept in mind that progress takes time. That is why that it would seem that science has not brought about any new inventions recently. The effects of science on society are more noticeable in the long term. Although, due to globalization and how the world shares technology, advancement is still relatively faster than before. Where will society end up in the year 2100? Only time will tell.



Photo courtesy of oculusrftonline.com



in the muggle world

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

It has been four years since the end of the Harry Potter movie franchise, but that does not mean that the wonderful, spell casting and potion mixing influence Harry and friends had on the real world has stopped. 2015 marks the first annual Quidditch College World Cup in muggle history, and it seems to have been a hit, even though the brooms still remain flightless. After making waves on social media outlets like Snapchat, people everywhere have started to play Quidditch. If one feels so inclined, as many have, perhaps it is time to put down the footballs and soccer balls, and trade those in for a Snitch and a Quaffle. As the weather gets better, people may find themselves having urges to play Quidditch, and this is a guide for just that.

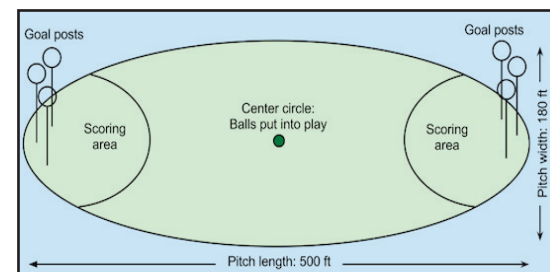
If one wants to start playing Quidditch, begin by getting 15 friends and go to an open space. In order to start playing Quidditch, each group of potential Quidditch players will need only a few items, some of which are likely collecting dust around the house. Each group will need 14 brooms, goal hoops (these can easily be made with hula hoops and large sticks or stakes), two Bludgers (Dodgeballs), a Quaffle (another dodgeball, frisbee or soccer ball) and one person to be the Snitch (yes, a person puts on gold clothes and runs around with a ball attached to their pants, acting as a snitch). Once these materials have been gathered and a location has been picked, the sport is easy to pick up.

After assembling two teams of seven, as well as having one person being the Snitch, it is time to play. Start with all three balls in the middle and have the players start at either side of

the field. Then, the game begins much like a game of dodgeball, with both teams running from either end to get the Quaffle and the two Bludgers. After this, the Snitch begins running, and the Seekers chase the person, much like in a game seen on the big screen during the Harry Potter movies.

Each team consists of one Keeper, one Seeker, two Chasers and three Beaters. These players run around on their brooms scoring points. There are two ways to score points in the game of Quidditch. The first is by throwing the Quaffle through the hoops. Each time the ball makes it through the hoop, it is 10 points. The second is by catching the Snitch. The Seeker attempts to catch the Snitch, and a caught Snitch will result in a 30 point bonus to the team of the seeker who catches it. The catching of the Snitch also signifies the end of the game. The team with the most points when the Snitch is caught wins the game.

Now, any normal person might ask, 'Why would I want to run around on a broom pretending to fly?' The reason that everybody should start to play is because it is one of the fastest growing sports on the planet right now. With leagues popping up all over the earth, it is becoming a huge hit. It is being played everywhere, from its homeland in England to colleges across the United States, there is nothing that can stop the growth of Quidditch, so why not hop on the bandwagon? With the growing popularity, it is only a matter of time until you can get scholarships with your new found Quidditch skills! So grab a broom, grab a friend, and get playing—rumor is the University of Michigan is looking for a Seeker.



An official representation of the college Quidditch field.

What you'll need to play:

- 15 people
- 14 brooms
- goal hoops
- 2 Bludgers (dodgeballs)
- 1 Quaffle (dodgeball, frisbee or soccer ball)
- 1 person willing to wear gold clothing and run around as a snitch

Meet the candidates of the 2016 election

Will Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

With the 2016 presidential elections less than two years away, the excitement of campaign season is starting to arise. This hectic time is both entertaining and vital, as Americans will be choosing a new leader for their country and simultaneously, viewing an abundance of options. With President Barack Obama's most recent approval rating at 45 percent, falling a bit below the average 53 percent, it is unclear which political party the next President of the United States (POTUS) will be aligned with. The leading rumored and confirmed candidates come from diverse backgrounds that span across many different ages and beliefs:



Jeb Bush

Former Governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007

Party alignment: Republican

Possibility of running: Very high; has been actively exploring a presidential campaign, according to social media

Popular opinion: Considered to be more moderate when it comes to **Republicans**

Family ties: Younger brother and son of former Presidents George W. Bush and George H. W. Bush, respectively

Major achievements: Very popular in Florida; won two consecutive terms

Chances of winning party nomination: Considered to be Republican frontrunner by many



Ted Cruz

United States Senator from Texas

Party alignment: Republican

Possibility of running: Confirmed

Popular opinion: Considered to be a radical and not always taken seriously as he is known for making false statements according to politifact.com of the *Tampa Bay Times*

Family ties: None

Major achievements: Serves as the chairman of the subcommittee on the Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts and U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee; First Cuban American to serve as a Senator from Texas

Chances of winning party nomination: Not likely, considering other rumored Republican frontrunners like Bush



Hillary Clinton

Former United States Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, and First Lady of the United States

Party alignment: Democrat

Possibility of running: Confirmed

Popular opinion: Highly respected, but can be considered dull

Family ties: Married to former POTUS Bill Clinton

Major achievements: First First Lady to gain success in a solo political career; Secretary of State

Chances of winning party nomination: Considered to be the frontrunner of the Democratic ticket based on recent polls



Jim Webb

Former United States Senator from Virginia and Secretary of the Navy

Party alignment: Democrat

Possibility of running: Has expressed strong interest in the subject, and launched an early presidential exploratory committee

Popular opinion: A Vietnam veteran renegade with strong foreign policy relations.

Family ties: None

Major achievements: Not successful during his time as a Senator but attempted to influence foreign policy

Chances of winning party nomination: Said to be big competition for Clinton because of possible public appeal

18 THE SPECTATOR

Head trauma continues to plague the NFL: 24-year-old star retires early for personal safety

Josh Segall '17, Sports

The football world was shocked, on May 2, 2012, by the devastating news of a Hall of Fame linebacker's sudden death. A few days later, it was concluded that this tragedy of Junior Seau was a result of suicide. Seau seemed incredibly happy to anyone in contact with him in his younger days, but near the end of his life, his family noticed that he was not acting like his normal self. About seven months after Seau's death, his family learned that the cause of his depression was Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), which is a brain disease due to a large amount of head-to-head collisions.

In December of that year, the Kansas City Chiefs linebacker, Jovan Belcher, brought more attention to the NFL's head trauma predicament. Belcher, who later was diagnosed with CTE, drove him and his girlfriend to the Chiefs' training facility, where he murdered his girlfriend, and then proceeded to take his own life at the young age of 25. This devastating incident was later proved to be caused by Belcher's CTE.

Even though most players in the NFL do not develop the disease, it is becoming a major concern for the organization. Seau undoubtedly encountered the head-to-head collisions needed to cause CTE in his 20 year NFL career, not including his years of youth and college football. Due to Belcher's young age, it is evident that it does not take a long time for a serious brain injury to develop, and damage can accumulate on the brain from as early as when youth football is played. Although it took the tragedies of Seau and Belcher to bring attention to this serious issue, CTE has been present for quite a while. CTE was associated most commonly with boxers, but it was only recognized as a possibility for football players in 2005. The Department of Veteran's Affairs brain respiratory program has newfound research that indicates the brain scans of 79 randomly selected deceased former NFL players, and of those examined, only three of them did not have CTE, leaving the other 76 with the diagnosis.

With all of the new information available for football players today, many people wonder why children grow up and still strive to play in the NFL knowing the dangers that may result because of the sport. Chicago Bears' safety Chris Conte said, "I'd rather have the experience of playing in the NFL and die 10 to 15 years earlier than not play in the NFL and have a long life." Now, it must

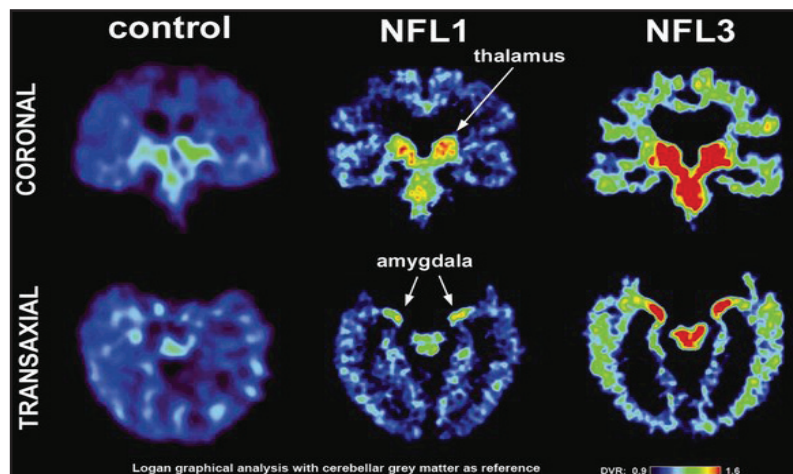
be taken into account that Conte is only 26 years old, and may not fully comprehend just how much can be accomplished in 10 years of life. Although it is very rare and special to play in the NFL, it leaves one pondering whether the experience is really worth taking away a huge part of one's life.

Due to all of this controversy surrounding head trauma, several new rule changes have been put in place. First, the kickoff was moved up to the 35-yardline from the 30, making touchbacks more common, which eliminated one of the most dangerous plays in football: the kickoff return. Additionally, there has been a huge increase in flags thrown for hits on a defenseless receiver, which is another play that leads to many injuries over the course of the season.

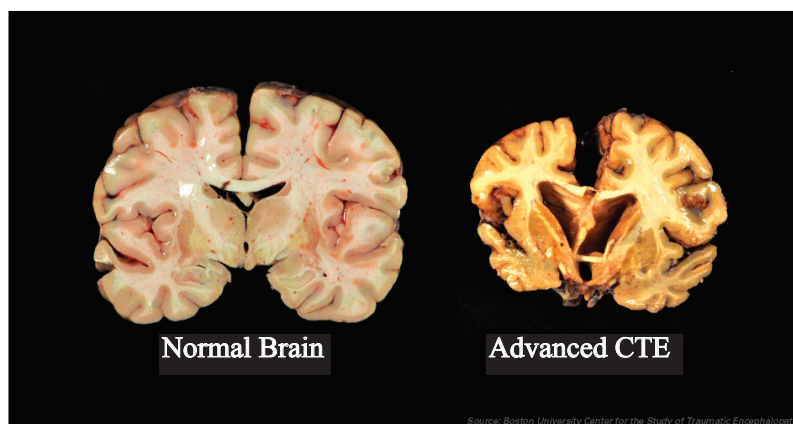
Several injuries caused the San Francisco 49ers fans to take a huge loss this offseason when potential Hall of Fame linebacker Patrick Willis unexpectedly retired. Fans of the team were counting on young linebacker Chris Borland to take his place because he had a very successful rookie season, leading the league in tackles. But, after a couple concussions in college and his rookie year, Borland weighed the pros and cons of playing in the NFL and decided to retire at age 24. This included him voluntarily returning his signing bonus to the team, which was not required, essentially costing him millions of dollars.

This decision sparked plenty of debate within the sports world. It is speculated that the number of children playing youth football will decrease soon, slowly weakening the NFL. Parents around the country are worried about their children playing youth football, from celebrities like LeBron James encouraging his sons not to play football, to kids like the students in the Berkley School District. Sophomore quarterback Ross Herron said, "My dad really warned me about the dangers of football. He didn't tell me not to do it, but he made sure I knew the risks I was taking." This is a commonly shared perspective amongst parents of youth football players.

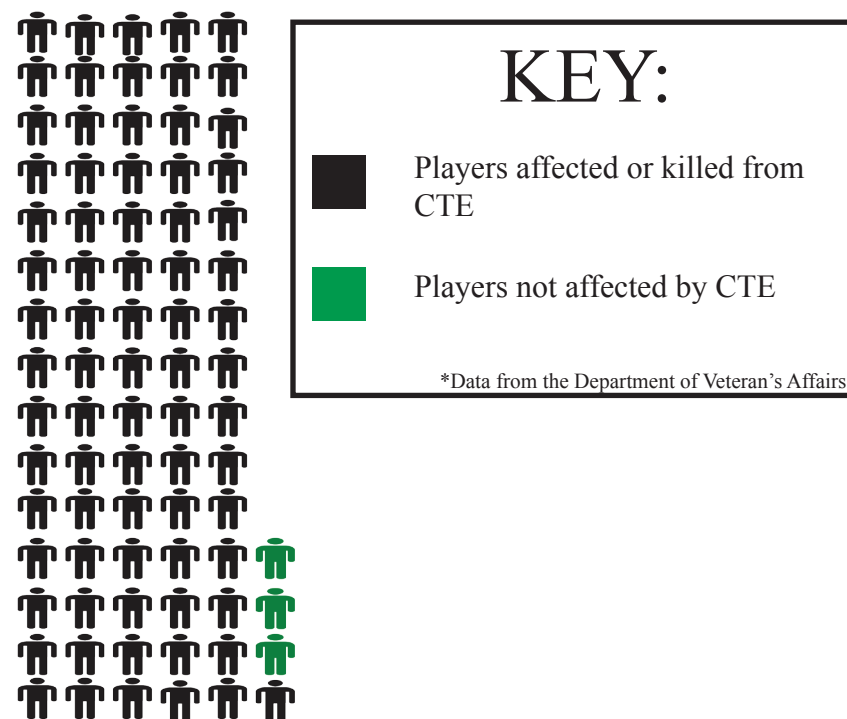
Football is a violent game that was destined to be modified from the start despite many fans' and players' denial. There are too many lawsuits, injuries and deaths for the NFL to possibly keep the game of football at the same level of competition over the upcoming decades.



Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy scans showing an increase in the severity of CTE, from left to right.



A brain scan that shows a normal brain as opposed to a brain with Advanced CTE.



Sampling laws regarding copyright cause problems for musicians

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor



Robin Thicke faces back lash due to a sampling issue inside "Blurred Lines."

Sometimes when listening to a song on the radio or on Spotify, one might find themselves thinking that they have heard this hook or instrumental before, and they might be right. What that listener is hearing is regarded as sampling.

Recently, many artists, generally in the hip-hop or R&B genre, have struggled to release their work due to copyright laws regarding samples taken.

The history of sampling is relatively short: it originated in the 1960s, when many popular artists would manipulate vinyl records to create new music. However, sampling did not gain attention until the mid-1970s when hip-hop artists began creating full songs and sets to

perform out of each other's pieces. Many times, rap artists like Sugar Hill Gang, De La Soul, Biz Markie and others would create full bodies of work around music that inspired them and for a while, they were able to do so successfully. However, most of the artists sampled wanted to be compensated for another musician using their work and then not being credited. After many court cases, it was decided that each sample used in an album must be cleared or authorized through the creator, but this does not always happen. Even today, some of the best producers in music right now like Kanye West, MF Doom, Pharrell and RZA all use samples, but many believe that sampling regulations will hurt future projects for these types of producers and other artists.

Recently, Robin Thicke and Mac Miller have been shot into the public eye due to using samples that were not cleared by the original artists. The 2014 hit single "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke featuring T.I. and Pharrell caught some serious backlash for using a sample from the song "Got to Give it Up," by the legendary Marvin Gaye. The case began when the same chord progression that was used in "Got to Give it Up" was emulated by Pharrell while creating the "Blurred Lines" instrumental. In an interview with TMZ in early 2013, Thicke was quoted saying that Marvin Gaye was a major inspiration for his music. That has recently changed since the Gaye family filed a law suit against Thicke and producer of the song, Pharrell Williams. The trial began Feb. 10, 2015 and quickly ended March 10, 2015 with the verdict of Thicke owing the family \$7.6 million out of the \$16.1 million profited off the single and Pharrell was off the hook due to the song not being his own. Many



Kanye West in the studio mixing songs with his equipment. West predominantly works with samples.

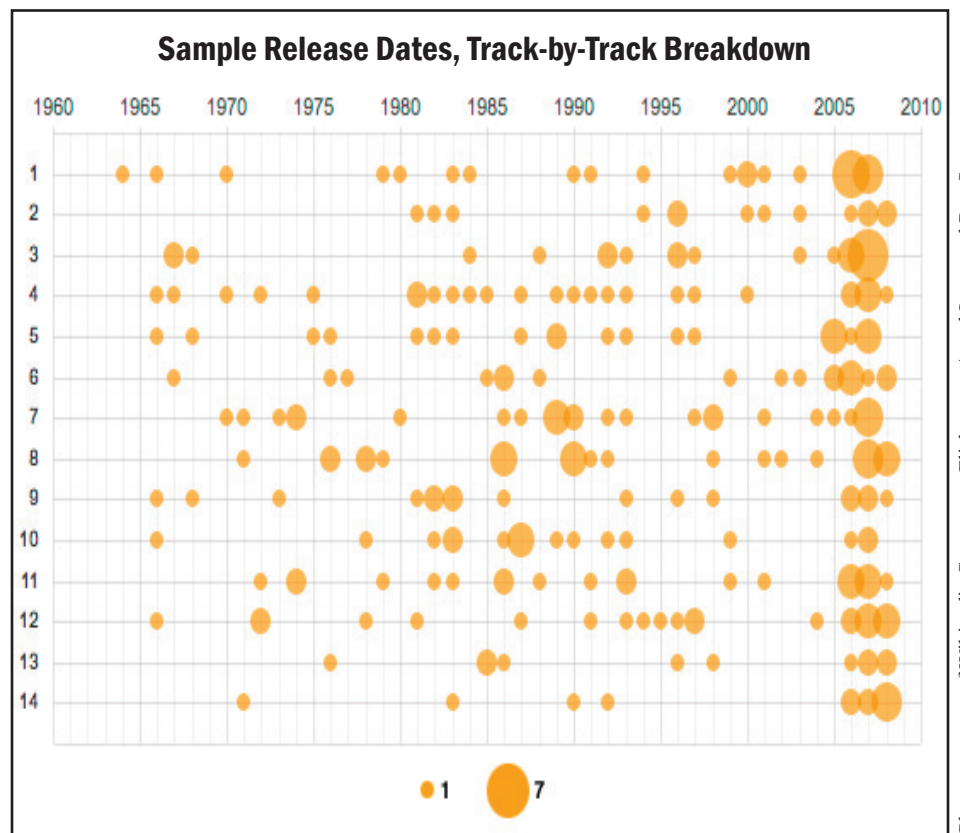
artists disagree with the court's recent decision. Questlove, a member of the Roots, believes that "Blurred Lines" was not technically not plagiarized. "It's the same chord progression. That still doesn't make it plagiarized. We all know it's a derivative. That's how Pharrell works. Everything that Pharrell produces is

derivative of another song, but it's homage," Questlove said. Pharrell works in a way that incorporates others to music to build off and now after the recent legal issue many fans of the producer question whether his creative process will have to change to avoid legal issues. "I enjoy all music that works to incorporating another person's sound. The act of doing creating music around another's work should not be illegal. We live in the digital age, and at this point, these laws seem to be a bit dated due to the new musical technology that producers have," junior Maliq Johnson said.

During Jermain Cole's new album *2014 Forest Hills Drive* in a song dubbed "Note to Self" Cole announces that if an artist puts their work out into the world, it is up for grabs for anyone to use.

The Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller was also caught using a sample that was not cleared in his song "Therapy," on his 2014 mix-tape *Faces*. Miller is being sued for about \$150,000 by '70s funk band Aquarium Dream. The use of the sample from the band cannot be denied. If one listens to the song "Yesterday" by the band, the sample can clearly be heard. Miller claims to have reached out to the band and then continued to use the instrumental after he was unable to contact the group. "Without permission from the original artists another cannot put their music out, and I do not blame Miller for just going for it after being ignored," Johnson said. This is not the first run in with the legal system for Miller. Back in 2012 Miller was sued by Lord Finesse part of the rap group D.I.T.C for using a sample of their song "Hip 2 Da Game." The single Miller released was named "Koolaid and Frozen Pizza" and again the use of a sample is undeniable.

This topic of copyright is not going to go away easily. With great producers like Kanye West, RZA and Pharrell Williams, who primarily use samples to form beats around, there is bound to be some trouble ahead. In the near future, many artists will look to these laws and find some unjust rules regarding samples. But for now, musicians will struggle to create original or revamped pieces from any inspiration without facing consequences.



Photos courtesy of Wikipedia Commons, Flickr users Angel Laws and Rex Sargotz

This is a break down of how many samples are used by producers. The amount of use that a producer gets out of a sample has risen greatly since the 1960s

From Bomont to Berkley: Be Drama cuts loose, Footloose to be exact

Cobian Gleason '16, Assistant Copy Editor

After three months of hard work, the students in the drama department were finally ready to present their spring musical on March 26. Be Drama performed *Footloose*, the well-known 1980s film turned musical. The show featured the students' creativity through their intricate sets and era-appropriate costume design, as well as their pure talent in acting and singing.

For those who do not know the story of *Footloose*, it follows the life of Ren McCormack (junior Ryan Hurley), when he moves from Chicago with his mother Ethel (junior Jordan McGee) to a small town. Once there, he discovers that Reverend Shaw (senior Jacob Chaiken) has outlawed dancing. With his new friends Willard (junior Alex Morrison) and Ariel (junior Chloe Oliva), Ren aims to lift the ban on dancing and show everybody in town what they are missing.

The set design for the show was quite aesthetically pleasing. Creating the bridge, school, restaurant and house was no easy task for the crew. The way that they used the bridge prop as the setting for multiple scenes was creative. The costume design was also very impressive, and each costume added a lot of flair to the characters' personality. Junior Melitta Luca said, "I loved the costumes, especially how

they made each character stand out." Those who worked on these aspects of the musical from behind the scenes did a fantastic job.

The performers put on an entertaining and amazing show, something that is no easy feat. Starring in a musical is exponentially more difficult than just acting in a play, because one must sing and dance on top of acting. Hurley, Chaiken, Morrison, junior Griffin Palmer (who played Chuck Cranston) and senior Logan Donnelly (who played Bickle and Cowboy Bob) all helped make the show and received a great response from the audience. Oliva, along with talented seniors Alyssa Cohen, Hannah Fahoome and Hailee Halprin, sang the iconic " *Holding Out For a Hero*," which is always a crowd favorite. Both McGee and sophomore Michelle Smith also astonished the crowd with their beautiful singing voices. The live band, playing on stage instead of the pit, really livened up every song.

It really was a great experience to be able to see the Be Drama students put on a popular musical such as *Footloose*. Senior Lauren Cohen said, "I don't know what my favorite part [was]. It was such a well done show all around." Overall, *Footloose* was an enjoyable and impressive performance that will be hard to top in the future.



Footloose The Musical



Photos courtesy of Dr. Jeffrey Shulak

Mac Miller: the Man of Mystery

Jake Kreinbring '16, Photo Editor

Every few years, there are artists who seem to be one-trick ponies. At the beginning of his career, it seemed as though that is what Pittsburgh based rapper Malcolm McCormick, or Mac Miller, was going to be. Much like Asher Roth, Iyaz and Jason Derulo, his party anthems sounded alike for the most part. Some thought his music would soon be a thing of the past, and that he would only be remembered as "that guy who made that song a while back." While he has dropped off the map a bit, he is anything but fading into obscurity.

Since his 2013 album release *Watching Movies with the Sound Off*, Miller has not dropped much commercially, but that does not mean he has been idle. Since his movement away from the mainstream rap scene, he has taken on other names and personas, releasing and producing music under one alias, Larry Fisherman. This work was both solo as well as collaborative, as Miller has worked with the likes of Roth and Vince Staples. He influenced these artists greatly, and while he was not directly credited, his unique sound can be noticed in these tracks. His music can be heard on its own, on his instrumental mixtape called *Run on Sentences*. This mixtape was dropped with seemingly no hype around it, but it is one of his strongest to date.

If someone unaware of these releases under a different name was informed that Miller was producing music, they would not be very shocked. The general idea about Miller is that he is a happy guy. Listening to one song from his second alter-ego, Delusional Thomas, would cause listeners to question the authenticity of his happiness on his original tracks. His harsh, offensive and generally twisted lyrics make his music fall under the category of Horrorcore. Horrorcore is a genre where artists rhyme about dark subjects, often including themes of murder and generally violent things. A stark contrast can be seen between tracks like "*Donald Trump*," from his mixtape *Best Day Ever*, and songs from Delusional Thomas' self-titled debut album. Miller's new stuff introduce an unknown

side to Miller's personality, only deepening the mystery as to what exactly he will do next. Will it be dark like the work heard under this name, or upbeat like the music of his past?

Delusional Thomas and Larry Fisherman may seem like enough for Miller, giving him three different outlets for musical content release in the future, but it was not. His most recent pseudonym is Larry Lovestein, jazz vocalist.

This final project is one that truly shows Miller's musical prowess. His vocals are not conventionally good, as the raspiness of his voice is often overpowering, but his lyrics are what truly make this project worth a listen. Straying away from the drugs, the fights and the parties found in his previous works, these albums seem to be more focused on love, and all that it accompanies. This layer adds softness to the character that is Mac Miller, and this sensitivity is seen throughout his work as Larry Lovestein.

With many rappers in the current industry, it is easy to predict their next move, but when it comes to Mac Miller, one never knows. With the musical talent to pull off any sound he wants to, it will be interesting to see what he will do next.



Artist/jack of all musical trades, Mac Miller, takes on the persona of Larry Lovestein, jazz vocalist.

Photo courtesy of Eileen Resman

New albums: Find your summer Record

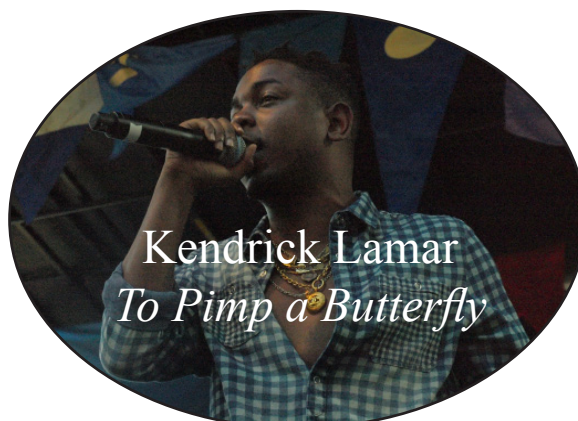
Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

In the last few months, many albums have dropped and 2015 is shaping up to be a promising year for all music. With the hype of a few surprise releases and expectations of multiple albums from new and old musicians, your music library is sure to be filled with some entertaining tunes.



Action Bronson
Mr. Wonderful

The odd, yet hilarious, New York M.C. has finally released his first major label album. The only way to describe this album is interesting. There are no boom-bap, generic New York instrumentals, and his topics seem a bit more mature than some of his previous works. Songs like “*A Light in the Addict*” and “*City Boy Blues*” have a bit more substance than the rest of the album and tell short stories. “This album not only did Bronson impress me with his lyrical ability, but also his idea to compose other pieces such as instrumental work,” freshman Nathan Herskovitz said. When listening, do not get caught up in some of the unconventional comments that Bronson makes or odd instrumental cutaways, but instead, enjoy the ridiculous lines and breaks from the M.C. This album is not perfect and does have a few lows such as “*Galactic Love*” and “*Only in America*.” Overall *Mr. Wonderful* will not disappoint.



Kendrick Lamar
To Pimp a Butterfly

This is possibly the most anticipated record of the year, due to the fact Lamar dropped an iconic album back in 2013, and fans of Lamar wondered how the young star would follow up this body of work. The general consensus is that Kendrick has released another great album. Topics that Lamar includes in the album are self-love, self-hatred, dealing with fame and spiritual yearning. “The topics covered on the album are different. It is refreshing to hear something that is not generic to Rap,” junior Andrew Healey. Each song fits with each other perfectly, flowing into each other and the album finishes abruptly with a poem that Lamar recites to an unknown individual. Soon, the identity is revealed to be Tupac. “The ending was great, and I doubt anyone saw it coming,” Johnson continued. Various features from Pharrell, Snoop Dogg and Flying Lotus make the album sonically more diverse. The message is deep and *To Pimp a Butterfly* is an album that is ambitously artistic for our time.



Modest Mouse
Strangers to Ourselves

This group has been an Indie Rock sensation since their release of *The Moon and Antarctica* back in 2002. Lately though, the group has just been somewhat disappointing. With the release of their seventh studio album, the band has stayed lukewarm rather than heating up. Instrumentals are very plain and most of the time, production of songs does not live up to the expectations set by previous works. “Each song sounded very similar to each other and some tracks were so slow I just skipped them,” junior Mike Mancini said. In the past, trying to decipher the message behind the lyrics made each song more amusing, but on this go-round, that method did not work. There are, however, some very memorable moments with songs “*The Dust Room*” and “*Lampshades on Fire*.” Overall, *Strangers to Ourselves* is one of the least memorable albums in their archive, but it is worth a listen if one enjoys experimental or Indie Rock.

Photos courtesy of Isaac Brock and Flickr users Gozamo and Mark Runyon

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart come out soft

William Shulak '16, Assistant Student Life Editor

Get Hard, released on March 27, starts strong with popular comedians Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart delivering an abundance of fast jokes at the beginning of the movie. But, as the film progresses, the plot starts to deflate as the creativity dies. This movie attempts to accomplish too challenging of a feat—blending the classic late 1990s and early 2000s ‘Frat Pack’ comedy with the newer comedic stylings of Hart. Unfortunately, this movie lacks the wit and heart necessary to make an original and meaningful comedy.

The plot revolves around millionaire James King (Ferrell), who strikes up an unlikely relationship with a hard working business owner Darnell Lewis (Hart) after meeting in the parking lot of the building that at which they both work. After King is sentenced to serve time in jail at San Quentin for fraud, he confuses Lewis for being an ex-con and hires Lewis to prepare him for jail. This mainly results in a lot of racial humor that, if handled properly, could have been taken seriously in order to make a poignant statement about current race relations.

Sadly, *Get Hard* only goes for quick laughs and glosses over the controversial topic of race in today’s culture. Junior Eli Falk has strong

feelings on how the movie turned out. “There were some decent cheap laughs. In the end, the movie piggy-backed on the main stars,” Falk said. While the movie lacks quality, it is amusing and can be enjoyed by most who admire the talents of Hart and/or Ferrell. For the most part, Hart and Ferrell have good chemistry and are relatively believable as partners.

While ultimately being a waste of potential, *Get Hard* musters up a few laughs and is almost saved by its leading men who bring a bright patch to an ultimately forgettable movie.



Co-stars Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart fall short of the hype in the film, *Get Hard*.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia commons and Jack Gruber from USA Today

2015 DRAFT Preview

Drew Leshman '17, Hot or Not Editor

The NBA Draft is always an exciting event; watching young talent being welcomed into and recognized by the league will never get old. Each year, the talent seems to get better and spectators of the NBA get even more eager for the upcoming season. This year is shaping up to be an unbelievable draft class, seeing as college basketball this year was chock full of young talent this past season.

The Kentucky Wildcats had a tremendous year once again, going undefeated in the regular season and ending with a 38-1 record. Their reputation did proceed them as some may argue that almost their entire lineup could enter the draft, which would be extremely impressive, seeing as most of them are freshmen. Forwards Willie Cauley-Stein, Trey Lyles, Dakari Johnson and Karl Anthony Towns, along with guards Andrew and Aaron Harrison, and Devin Booker have already declared entry for this year's draft. "I feel like

Cauley-Stein and Towns will go top 10," junior Jimmy Morency said.

Georgia State guard, R.J. Hunter, immediately declared entry for the draft following his team's loss in the NCAA tournament. Hunter averaged 19.7 points per game and, of course, hit the game winning three in the first round of the tournament against Baylor. Early projections have Hunter going late in the first round, which would be a remarkable accomplishment for the young guard from a relatively small school.

There is much debate regarding who will be picked first in the draft. "I think Jahlil Okafor will go first because Coach K taught him many key things to be successful in the NBA," freshman Matt Austin said. Top players such as defending champions Duke's Okafor and Justise Winslow, along with runner up Wisconsin's Frank

Kaminsky and Sam Dekker, are also projected to be top picks in the draft. The draft lottery will take place on May 19 and will determine which teams have the top picks for the actual draft; the draft is set to take place on June 25.

Although much of the news regarding the NBA Draft is about seniors and juniors who have been waiting their full length college careers for this moment, it also includes many freshman players who also feel like they are ready to play in the big leagues. Freshman players like Emmanuel Mudiay from China, and guards Tyus Jones and Melo Trimble, are getting prepared for the draft as well. All three are projected to go in the first or early second round this year.

As the date approaches, players from all over the world will commit to the NBA Draft. From there, they will await their moment to hear commissioner Adam Silver announce their name, welcoming them to their new NBA team.



Willie Cauley-Stein (left) and Karl Anthony Towns (right) entered the NBA Draft.

Photo courtesy of Jose Juarez



Georgia State's R.J. Hunter is a sleeper pick.

Photo courtesy of James Crisp



Duke's Jahlil Okafor is a lottery pick.

Photo courtesy of Russ Bradburd

NHL playoffs trump the NBA

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor

April is one of the best months in sports for several reasons: the conclusion of March Madness, the beginning of the MLB season, and the NBA playoffs; surprisingly, however, the main attraction for sports fans is the NHL playoffs. Although the playoffs get a lot of attention, the NHL regular season is a different story, as from late October to April, all anyone seems to care about is the NBA and college basketball. But when the NHL playoffs start, basketball fans start tuning in to the competitive hockey games despite not watching any of the regular season.

The reasoning behind the lack of attention to the NHL regular season comes from the parallel seasons of the NHL and the NBA, as they start and end around the same time. The NBA has a much larger fan base, but during the playoffs, many basketball fans resort to watching the unpredictable NHL playoffs. This bandwagoning makes distinguishing the actual hockey fans from the strictly playoff fans very difficult. Sophomore Tyler Smith said, "There is a completely different atmosphere [in the NHL playoffs]. The players compete with more intensity and that makes the game so much more thrilling [than the NBA]." Many sports fans across the country share similar opinions with Smith.

The NHL playoffs has two elements that the NBA playoffs lacks. First, the physicality is off the charts compared to the NBA, with huge hits occurring almost every minute, and a lot more rivalries created. Hockey teams seem to care so much more about the playoffs than regular season results, so they put in more effort. This puts them in a "do whatever it takes to win" mindset, which makes them more willing to get in the trenches and be physical with opposing players. This leads to more hatred between the teams, and a more intense, entertaining series.

The main reason the NHL playoffs has become so popular is because of the unpredictability of every series. Senior Max Dooley said, "Basketball is just a more boring sport because [the NBA Playoffs are] predictable. You never know what's going to happen in the NHL Playoffs." Whether it is a four-seed against a five-seed, or the top team against one that just barely made the playoffs, like this year's Detroit Red Wings, any team has a chance to win.

For the first year in a while, the NBA has some depth with their playoff teams, specifically in the Western Conference. But in the Eastern Conference, LeBron James' Miami Heat made the NBA Finals four straight years, and James' young Cavaliers are the favorites to make it back to

the Finals through the East again this year. The first round of the playoffs is almost always insignificant, as there is rarely ever an upset, which is the opposite of the NHL where every series is up in the air.

In the NHL, any team can make a run because of the physicality of play, which can throw even the best of teams off their game. That is why during this time of year, there is suddenly a surplus of hockey fans seemingly emerging from under a rock, and the NBA is not as popular as it was during the regular season.

NBA Finals vs. NHL Stanley Cup Ticket Comparison

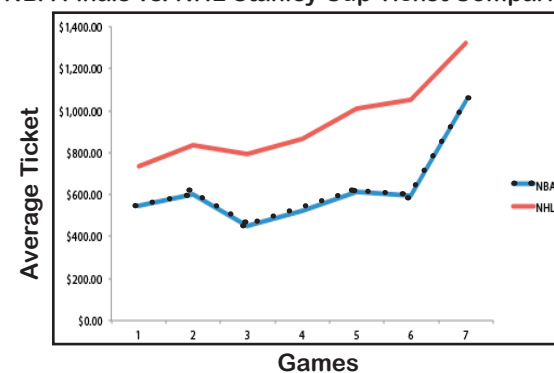


Photo courtesy of Xuanxy

MAYWEATHER V.S. PACQUIAO: THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

'Money' Mayweather is considered to be the best fighter in world. He is undefeated as a professional and is known for his defensive approach to boxing. Coming out of Grand Rapids, MI, he was raised as a boxer by his father who was a successful fighter. Mayweather's biggest fight to date was in 2007 against Oscar De La Hoya for the World Boxing Council (WBC) title. The fight broke the record for most money generated from any Pay Per View program. Mayweather won on a split decision, confirming that he was worthy of being one of the biggest stars in boxing. He recently extended his record by winning his most recent fight against Marcos Rene Maidana.



Photos courtesy of Camille Travis and Tony



Pacquiao is currently considered to be the second best boxer on the planet. The lefty is 57-5-2 in his career and has won titles in eight different weight classes. Lately, however, he has been on a downslide due to his many commitments in his home country of the Philippines, being a congressman and basketball player. Pac-Man's biggest fight was also against Oscar De La Hoya in 2008. Entitled "The Dream Match," the fight was in the Welterweight class. Pacquiao won the fight on a technical knockout in the 8th round. Pacquiao was once considered comparable, if not better, than Mayweather, but he has slowed down the last couple years.

The Mayweather vs. Pacquiao PPV price will be \$89.95 for standard quality and \$99.95 for High Definition. The fight is the most expensive PPV price for a fight, ever. Although the price seems a bit outrageous, groups of people will likely put money in to watch it together on one TV. Senior Jake Gross explained, "I plan on going to a friend's house, so I will not personally have

to pay for it, but I will definitely watch it."

Mayweather is coming in as the heavy favorite in Vegas between the world's two greatest fighters. He is likely the favorite since he has both a better record, and also, a bigger ego. Mayweather is known for being a very flashy fighter, but he has been able to back it up with his undefeated record. Gross said, "I'm not a bandwagoner, but I

definitely pick Mayweather."

The rivalry between the two has continued to grow, as Mayweather and Pacquiao have had a well-documented hatred for each other for several years. Over the last five years, it has been clear that the two were the best fighters on the planet. Negotiations for a fight to settle the argument over who is better were ongoing,

but there were always small details between the two parties. Both Mayweather and Pacquiao have publicly criticized each other constantly, but it has come to a head recently. Pacquiao recently posted a picture of the speed bag he is using to prepare for the fight; it has a picture of Mayweather on it for extra motivation.

THROW LIKE MO': 13-YEAR-OLD IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

Katie Wolberg '18, Co-Business and Ad Manager

A 13-year-old baseball player rocked the entire nation in the Little League World Series. Mo'ne Davis pitched in the 2014 Little League World Series in August, changing history in the name of girls playing baseball. She is an inspiration for all girls that they can do anything as well as boys.

Davis, playing for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is the first African American girl and one of only two girls who have played in the Little League World Series. Davis is, in fact, the first girl to be on a winning Little League team. Not only is she talented a talented baseball player, but she also takes part in basketball and football.

Davis has received massive attention for her pitching abilities, including her appearance on the cover of Sports Illustrated Magazine. The major spotlight in the media is garnered from her intense shutout during the game. Davis has now made a name for herself in baseball all over the world.

Sophomore and softball player Bailey Butash

said of Davis, "It's amazing. A lot of people think that girls can't play baseball, and she proved them wrong." Davis gives motivational hope that girls all over the world can play baseball, too, and one day people will just notice the talent of players, not their gender.

Utilizing her instant fame, Davis has continued to use this immediate media attention with her sneaker line, giving proceeds to various charities that help impoverished girls. One charity includes the Because I Am a Girl initiative, which grants proceeds to girls' education, ending child marriage and stopping gender-based violence.

Since Davis is influential to boys and girls all over the world, Disney Channel has decided to make an original movie about her life, titling it, *Throw Like Mo*. Mo'ne Davis is not only a great baseball player she has changed the nation and is an inspiration to all.



Mo'ne Davis dominated the 2014 Little League World Series for her Pittsburgh team.

Photo courtesy of Brian Garfinkel

Parents: chill

Emma Weisberger '16, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Parents are one of if not the most important influence on a young person's life. Good parents teach their kids right from wrong and shelter them from the harsh realities of life. Parents are not always our favorite people, but without them, where would most of us be?

Recently, at a journalism workshop at Michigan State University, we were informed about a major controversy that involved what some parents deemed inappropriate pictures and topics being featured in the school newspaper. The "inappropriate" content involved the discussion of sex education, something many would say is necessary information for young adults. Even though this is information that is either known or is strongly recommended to learn, parents took issue with the story and corresponding pictures involving condoms, nonetheless. Later, some parents even apologized for complaining about the content, saying that they had no idea their kids found the information helpful instead of damaging.

Our class was able to hear the full, in depth account of this ordeal, and it really had me thinking about the role that parents truly play as we reach this stage in our lives. Obviously, parents are extremely important for giving advice, making sure we stay out of trouble, and being there when we need them, but do many parents overstep their duties and ultimately harm their children in an effort to protect them?

In the particular instance, parents saw "sex" being mentioned repeatedly in the newspaper and immediately took issue with it, whether that is because the subject made them uncomfortable or they believed articles like these promoted sex. What many fail to realize is that their kids are going to do what they want to do, and if they learn how to do these things safely, like the article promoted, they would be in a much better position than if they went ahead and did what they felt like without crucial knowledge.

When it comes to informing about subjects as tricky as sex, parents tend to be naïve about what is really going on. Many believe that providing the safety guidelines to having sex enables their children, but really, it just keeps their children safe and healthy.

The over-censorship and over-protection by parents is meant to have good intentions but often times has adverse effects on children. My mom always used to tell me this story about a roommate she had during her freshman year of college. This girl had lived in a family where they were strictly forbidden to have sugar cereal because they believed it to be unhealthy. When this girl got to college, she was finally allowed the freedom to make her own choices, and guess what? She ate sugar cereal night and day until she got sick.

Now this seems like a fairly mild and harmless example, but what happens when the sugar cereal is replaced with drugs and alcohol? If kids do not know how to handle themselves, the consequences could be far more serious than just getting sick. I'm not saying parents should allow their children to drink, but they should teach them how to be responsible about it should they choose to. The idea of any parent's child taking part in these activities makes them uncomfortable and willing to do anything to make sure their children avoid the situation. The reality is, in high school, avoiding tricky situations involving illegal substances is highly unlikely. Instead of telling one's children these things are forbidden, they need to have a real discussion with their children about the sometimes uncomfortable, but necessary information they need to know in order to be safe and not "get sick from sugar cereal" when they go to college.

Now this over-protecting instinct that parents tend to have does not just apply to things that are not good for them, but it strongly applies to the school and responsibility aspects of a child's life. All parents want to watch their children succeed, and they are willing to go to any length in order to see their child reach their full potential.

There is absolutely no harm in providing one's child with the tools to succeed, but when the tools extend to a point of dependency, the problem occurs. By this, I mean that there is a fine line between encouraging a child and enabling a child to depend on their parents whenever life gets a little tough. When a kid is in elementary school, of course a parent should be helping their kids with subjects the struggle in and learning proper study habits. Of course parents should help to edit an essay or give an opinion when needed, but they should not do their work for them.

The problem is when parents are constantly emailing teachers and making excuses for their children regarding assignments when a kid is fully capable of figuring it out on their own. By repeatedly demonstrating this behavior, it shows the child that they can depend on their parents to bail them out. What happens when that kid goes to college or gets a job in the real world and realizes that they cannot have their parents email their bosses and explain the situation. That's just not real life.

Something that relates to this that I found particularly interesting is that second semester seniors still have parent teacher conferences. These seniors will be living away from home in four short months, and many are legal adults, and yet they still need their parents to check up on how they are doing to keep them in check. Parent teacher conferences are necessary for freshman, sophomore and even junior year, but if a kid has not figured it out by senior year, they're in trouble.

The same thing goes with the whole having to get your parents to sign your schedule for the next school year. By the time you reach junior year, you know better than your parents what classes are right for you, and the fact that we make students depend on their parents, it just sets them up to depend on their parents later on in life.

Do not get me wrong, I love my parents most of the time and believe that they play an influential role in my life; as time has gone on, though, I have realized that in some aspects, I know what is best for me better than they do. Parents need to let go of those instincts to protect their children at all costs and let them learn valuable knowledge, sometimes even stemming from their mistakes. The goal of raising a child is not to create a generation of dependent people, but an informed and independent one.

Money is power

Malindi Lubinecky '15, Editor-in-Chief

The age-old hypothetical question "would you rather be poor and happy, or rich and unhappy?" has been pondered many times in life. And without a second thought, many of us would answer, "poor and happy, of course." But, think about it again; take the theoretical aspect out of the equation—would your answer remain the same? Probably not. That is because, although we would like to believe that the world relies on love to go around, the sad truth is that it does not. It revolves on the basis of money.

In our society, money is the equivalence to power. Take the celebrities in Hollywood, professional athletes or even the president for example: they are all powerful because of their role in society. They earn heaps of money, which only contributes to the amount of power that they have already attained. The ratio between power and money is simple: the more successful and financially stable a person is, the probability that the amount of power they will have is higher.

Most would like to think that once they have obtained to a certain level of power, that they would use that power for good purposes and help rid the world of negative issues like poverty and hunger. But, sociological and psychological experiments have proven otherwise. Philip Zimbardo, a famous psychologist, performed experiments to demonstrate that once a person is given power, they enforce it in ways that are interpreted as fearful, abrasive and in extreme cases, abusive. People, who seemed to initially be unquestionably honest and good, turned into dictator-like authoritative figures that used their power to instill fear and gain a sense of establishment over those who did not possess the same magnitude of power.

Money is a powerful piece in the game we call life. It has the potential and ability to change the world, and while there are some kind souls out there that generously donate many of their earnings to charities and organizations to help those in need, the amount of those that do not contribute to this aspect of society outnumber those that do.

In today's society, a white, upper class American man is more likely to walk away from a trial not guilty or might be reprimanded with a severely less punitive sentence than a black, young man living in Detroit. That is because of a little thing called privilege. Not only does it gain power, often stereotypically associated with race, but it also garners respect, sometimes undeservedly, and provides a sense of security that not all Americans are granted. Racial profiling as an unjust societal dilemma that in its use is often associated with the economic status of a person or particular group of people. This sense of social inequality and profiling has become a problem due to who has money, power and privilege.

Money also corrupts people; the motives and causes greed walk hand-in-hand with destruction. Due to this, economists predict that in the future there will no longer be a middle class; the world will be separated entirely by an income gap between the wealthy and the poor. It is unfathomable to comprehend that in the future, one will ultimately earn enough money to get by each month or that one will be ensured annually and not have to worry about money. The middle class is used as a grey area to diffuse this economic scale, but soon they will be divided into two extremes. We all acknowledge that the economy is fragile and, quite frankly, weak. It is deteriorating at a pivotal time in our nation: a time where money is everything. We rely on it for just about anything and everything, and it is hard, if not impossible, to imagine a life without it. Yes, there is the concept of trade that was around before the creation of a monetary unit, so essentially we have lived without it, and for quite a while. But, presently, that is not an idea people can fathom, and that is worrisome. Money ties everything and everyone together and unless one has undergone the two extremes that are predicted to occur in the future, there is no way to distinguish how significant money truly is. These green pieces of paper ultimately rule our entire existence.

In this generation, money is power. It makes the world go round and is the only structure we have for anything nowadays. Everything we rely on requires money in some shape or form: housing, food, clothing, entertainment, etc. Because of this, people are relying on materialistic items rather than returning to more important aspects of life such as family, culture and self-growth. It is difficult and most cannot, but once one has undergone both of the aspects of the economic scale, it is impossible to register the impact money has on the quality of life. I am not trying to say that money is essentially a good or a bad thing, but it is the thing that controls us. I am instead saying that if it continues to control us, what will we do when another Great Depression hits or the stock market collapses? What will happen to us then?

We have turned into a society where our salary exposes the true happiness that we possess. The larger the paycheck, the more happiness we have or feel, and this is rather sad. When we were younger all that was on our minds was how much longer until recess or how much we dreaded the call of naptime. Now, we are hungry for money. We desire living somewhere nice with nice belongings that we can afford with a nice job.

We have to ensure that we are living our lives not on the basis of money, but on happiness, because without either we will not survive and evolve as human beings.