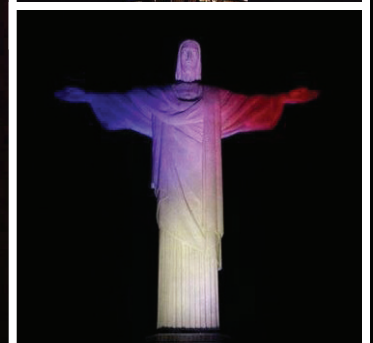
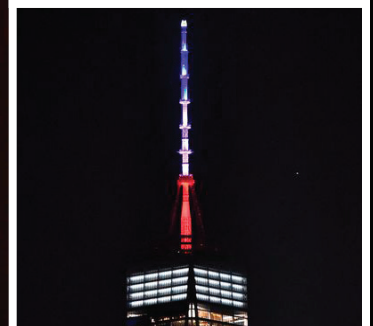
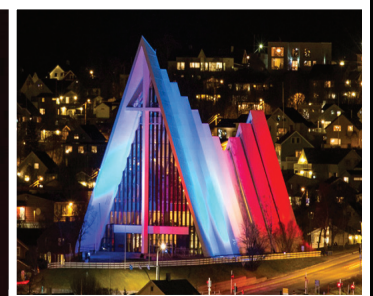


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November 2015



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Ask Dr. Doctor Bennett

Dr. Doctor Bennett Hart '16, News Editor

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

What would John Duffy do for a donut?

I'm not sure if he even likes donuts, but there are a few things I would suspect he would not give up like his beard, clothes, using the word "murky," and his friendship with Mr. Cierpial.

Who would win? 1,000,000,000 lions or the sun?

I'm not sure what this means, but the sun would kill any number of lions. Lions are not the smartest animals and would not be able to invent anything to prevent them from dying due to the sun's heat.

The Meh

List: Not good, not bad, just meh.

The *Spectator* Staff

1. PayDay
2. Zig zag scissors
3. Ponds
4. Field hockey
5. Sweetest Day



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

Photos courtesy of Pavel Krok, Evan-Amos and Nowis

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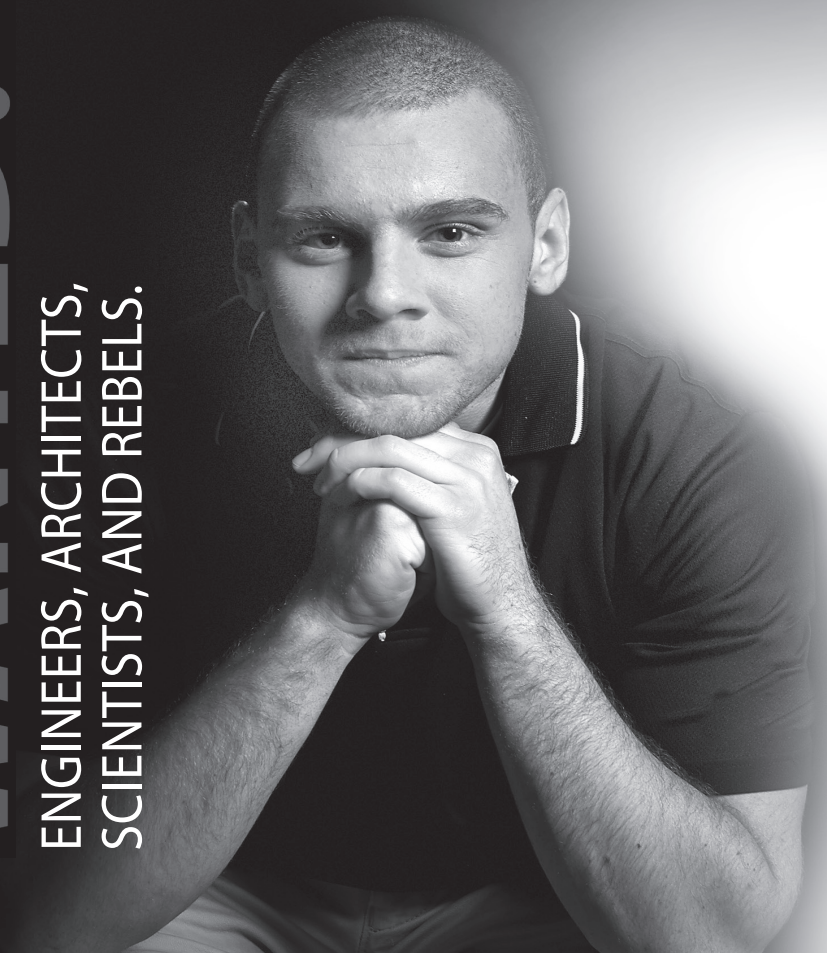


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Democrats push for reduced college tuition

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

During the first Democratic debate on Oct. 13, candidates were asked about their thoughts on the issue of rising college tuition. The rising price of college tuition is becoming an issue that is too great to continue ignoring. Tuition and student loans have gone beyond reasonable, and discourage prospective college students as a result. Candidates talked about their ideas for policies that would be able to lower tuition prices and fix the college education system.

Senator Bernie Sanders believes that public colleges and universities should be made tuition free, much like a high school education, making it possible for families of all incomes to attend. In order to fund colleges to lower their costs and help his program succeed, Sanders said, "I pay for my program... through a tax on wall street speculation." Sander's policy will tax sales of stocks and bonds in order to fund colleges. This will allow colleges to have the money they need, so they can lower tuition in return.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, currently leading in the Democratic polls, mentioned a plan that would potentially allow all Americans currently paying student debt to refinance to a plan with a much lower interest rate. Along with that, Clinton would make public colleges and universities tuition free by means of a collective effort. She opposed Sanders' idea because she thinks students should have to put in effort to receive the free education, and his plan seemingly allows high income families to get off more easily. Clinton wants students to maintain a job during college, since it was something she did during her college years. She said students should work at least 10 hours a week in order to accommodate the cost of their tuition. To make this possible, Clinton also believes that colleges need to help out by lowering tuition prices themselves.

While he did not manage to get a word in during the debate, former Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley has a similar plan of action. O'Malley's policy involves a focus on refinancing loans along with capping their monthly loan payments. This will manage to make tuition much more reasonable and will also relieve the pressure of large monthly payments.

Candidates did not get a chance to further explain details of their policies during the second Democratic debate on Nov. 14, 2015. In light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, France the day before, the debate was heavily focused on the topics of terrorism and foreign policy.

It is important that the candidates get the chance to relay their ideas on college tuition to the public, especially the younger voters who are students. Senior Chloe Church said, "I'm really happy to see this issue highlighted by the candidates, but I don't really know which option will be the best for us." Senior Jacob Kennedy had similar thoughts. Kennedy said, "I think there's good framework that they are offering, but it's not the only thing that needs to be done." Both students believe that more details about such projects should be made public. Then voters and students like Church and Kennedy can make a more educated decision. It is not easy to choose, as whatever policy is implemented has the power to shape college education and the lives of students for years to come.



Photo courtesy of ocrworld

Candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton conflict over college tuition in the Democratic debate on Oct. 13.

China ends one-child policy

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

On Oct. 29, Xinhua News Agency, China's official press agency, released a statement that China will now allow citizens to have two children. This decision will abolish the legislation that limits couples to having one child which was created in 1980 as a means to combat population growth.

After decades of the one-child policy in implementation, China now faces a gender disparity as men vastly outrank women due to years of female infanticide and child abandonment. The two-child policy hopes to solve this problem by restoring China's workforce with a larger population and less motivation to have only male children.

According to Roderic Wye, associate fellow at London's Chatham House Asia Programme, reversing the problem may not be as easy as it sounds. "The policy is well past its use by date—population growth is no longer a critical problem for China and the need for strict controls is long past," Wye said in an interview with Al Jazeera on Oct. 29. The Communist Chinese government has been criticized for their harsh policies, with some sensing a reform of strict laws within the past few years.

For decades, it was argued that China's economic boom was in part due to the one-child policy. In recent years, this economic boom may cease to exist as China faces an even bigger complication onset by the one-child policy. "The longer-term problem for China is the rather skewed structure of its age pyramid following on from big reductions in births in the 1970s and 1980s," Wye said, explaining the aging problem in China. "We are coming to a time when there is a worsening ratio of old people dependent on others and those still in work. However, that's not going to be fixed by this announcement because the demographic impact is likely to be small." A simple fix may not be enough to undo the damage done by decades of harmful policy.

This policy will likely affect China's status as an economic powerhouse. That being said, the results may not be visible in the foreseeable future, for the two-child policy will not even be fully implemented until March 2016.

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Attacks in Paris, Beirut shock the world

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Coordinated attacks in the capital cities of Beirut, Lebanon and Paris, France collectively claimed the lives of 172 civilians on Nov. 12 and 13, respectively. The attacks were perpetrated by the Islamic State, a terror organization commonly known as ISIS, ISIL, or the Arabic acronym, Daesh. The attacks in Paris killed 129 civilians and consisted of a suicide bombing at Stade de France, the largest stadium in France, and a mass shooting at Bataclan Theatre. Two suicide bombers killed 43 people in a Shiite neighborhood in Beirut the previous day in a related attack.

The Paris attacks were the deadliest on French soil since World War II, and were met with the first mandatory curfew in the city since Nazi occupation. Similarly, the attacks in Beirut were the deadliest since the end of the Lebanese Civil War 25 years ago. In response, the government of French president François Hollande conducted 128 raids of terror suspects and mobilized 115,000 police and military personnel across the nation to “ensure the protection of the French,” according to French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve. French airstrikes against Daesh targets in Syria increased substantially in the immediate wake of the attacks and called upon its European and American allies to join them with additional airstrikes.

On Friday night and throughout the weekend, the people of the world stood in solidarity with the people of Paris. National monuments all around the world lit up with the blue, white, and red of the French Republic, while the lights of the Eiffel Tower shut down. Social media sites allowed users to overlay the colors of the French Flag on their profile picture. Some objected to this, decrying the fact that the same attention was not afforded to the victims of the attacks in Lebanon. Elie Fares, a Lebanese doctor, wrote on his blog, “When my people died, no country bothered to light up its landmarks in the colors of their flag... Their death was but an irrelevant fleck along the international news cycle, something that happens in those parts of the world.” Fares highlighted the disparity between the way mainstream media treats tragedy in different parts of the world, and the blanket misconceptions about the entire Middle East.

On Friday, Nov. 13, the world changed forever. The fight against Daesh transformed from a regional conflict into a global one. The long-term effects of the attacks will continue to surface in the coming months and will directly and indirectly affect billions of people all over the globe.

The term “Daesh”

Daesh is a term used by the Kurdish militias to refer to the Islamic State. It is an acronym for the Arabic name for IS, **al-Dalwa al-Islamiya fi al-'Eraq wa al-Sham**. Depending on how it is conjugated, however, it can also mean a bigot who imposes his view on others. By referring to them as Daesh instead of Islamic State, ISIS, or ISIL, they are delegitimized as the functional state they claim to be, and dissociated from the peaceful religion of Islam. Daesh despises the term, threatens to cut out the tongue of any person caught using it. *The Spectator* urges its readers to defy the legitimacy of the terrorists and take semantic power away from ISIS: refer to them instead as Daesh.



Following the attacks, hundreds of people in Paris gather to donate blood for those in need.



People gather in the streets outside Stade de France after explosions rocked the stadium.

Photos courtesy of newstalk990 and Clickittafaq

Sesame Street introduces character with autism, tries to promote acceptance

Jordan McGee '16, Circulation Manager

In late October, the producers of *Sesame Street* made the decision to introduce a new character with autism.

Sesame Street has educated young kids since the first episode aired in 1969. Over time, the show has reinvented itself to connect with current trends. They try to remain fresh by introducing new ideas to children, after aligned with pop culture or current events. The show has not always received positive feedback though, as they got heat for introducing veggie monster to replace cookie monster after Michelle Obama introduced her healthy initiative. While some people may argue against adding mental disabilities into a children's show due to bullying, *Sesame Street* has geared up to educate children and parents alike about tolerance and acceptance of autistic kids and their families.

The latest *Sesame Street* miniature web series project is titled *Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children*. This informs young children that being different from their peers is okay and these differences are to be accepted. These videos are preparing the world for a new muppet character, Julia. This new character can help educate children on why she is different. They plan to show how she is just like other kids, and how making simple accommodations like lowering one's volume and being aware can help Julia.

The children's show is using straightforward language to educate its viewers on all different types of children. The first web series video, “Family Time with Grover” is published in The Atlantic Online. It introduces a child who asks his parents, “How come Garrett does not want to talk to me?” His mom explains that Garrett is, “paying attention in his own way, even though he is nonverbal.” Senior Alison Koch said, “It's a great representation to little kids when they see characters that are just like them on TV. They are shown to be loved and can grow into wonderful human beings.” Integrating autistic children into television is intended to help develop the growth in and acceptance from other children.

Sesame producers are waiting to hear back from the autism community before introducing Julia to TV networks. While she could be a positive means of educating young children

about differences, parents claim that having an autistic girl character is unexpected due to autism mainly affecting young boys.

Social Studies teacher Mrs. Jennifer Simone, who has previous work experience with autistic children, said, “There are always worries when you try to encapsulate an entire group of people into one character. Autism is a spectrum disorder.” She added, “I applaud them for putting these children into a more public light so that people will know how to interact with them.”

The network wants to work her in carefully and hopes that she will be accepted into regular episodes of the show. Characters with disabilities have been introduced in prior seasons, like Linda, a deaf librarian who is also played by a deaf actress. Parents of the autistic community hope for this type of integration for Julia's character. Integration will only help depict the acceptance needed for these children.



A digital image of the potential autistic *Sesame Street* character, Olivia.



Photos courtesy of Velsid

6 THE SPECTATOR

Bears head indoors:

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor and Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Boys' Hockey

Anchored by two hopeful first team all state members, senior captains Zach Leonard and Ian Melrose, the Bears look to improve on their 16-9 record from last year. The team has been placed in an interesting situation this year, as they have almost the exact same team as last year, with the exception of a few graduated seniors. Melrose commented on this anomaly, and said, "It's good to have everyone back because everyone already has great chemistry." The team's chemistry should help the Bears jump on the competition early in the season, for they have been preparing as a team for over a year. The Bears are looking to bring home the league title this year and make an impact in the state playoffs after being eliminated in the second round of the playoffs last season.

Wrestling

After a successful season last year, the Bears are looking to win the OAA White Division as a team this year. Senior Ian King, a league runner up a year ago, said, "It's going to be a fun season. We have a lot of new, incoming wrestlers mixed with a couple returners, and I think we have a chance to have a good team this year." The young wrestlers are hoping to make a good foundation for themselves and the program for the future. Vinnie Tenaglia, a League Champion last year, is looking to win again, and be successful in the district and regional tournaments. As a program, their future is very optimistic as they look to establish themselves as a powerhouse amongst the league, and the various schools it contains.

Boys' Swimming

The boys' swim team is poised for a great season this year. While the team moved up from the OAA Blue Division to the competitive OAA White Division, they only lost two seniors and gained many more members, giving the Bears the biggest team they have had since they won the league in 2012. Senior captain and four-year varsity swimmer Eli Falk explained, "I think we will be competitive in our division. We're looking to surprise some of our opponents." The program is looking to maintain its status as a serious league contender yet again. After placing third at the league meet and having the most all league swimmers out of any team in the OAA Blue last year, the Bears are hopeful for a run at the league title this season.

*Continued on page 7

The Spectator makes college football predictions

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

The 2015-2016 college football season is already one to make a mark in the history books. In the world of college football, specifically the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), there has been a number of unthinkable upsets and nail-biting finishes. As teams jump the ranks of the Associated Press polls, they are all chasing the goal of making the first ever college football playoff.*

Best games

Michigan vs Michigan State on Oct. 17:

These teams have one of the best rivalries in college football, and the 2015 game lived up to all the hype. On the last play of the game, after Michigan fans had assumed that they were victorious, the Wolverines turned the ball over and Michigan State scooped and scored as time expired. In the eyes of the Wolverines' fans, the infamous play will go down in history as the cause of a fluke loss and yet another disappointing defeat to their little brother.

Miami vs Duke on Oct. 31:

After plenty of lead changes, Duke scored with four seconds left in the fourth quarter, which they thought sealed their fate. Playing it safe, Duke hit a squib kick on the kickoff hoping to eliminate the chance of a return. However, Miami managed to score on the last play of the game after eight laterals, proving to be one of the most exciting finishes of all time. During this 49-second long kickoff return, a Miami player was questionably never ruled down, which resulted in the ACC suspending every referee from the game. In the end, Miami kept their controversial win.

Key matchups

Michigan vs Ohio State on Nov. 28:

The 2nd ranked Buckeyes will travel to the Big House to take on the 14th ranked Wolverines in what is always an exciting rivalry game. As the Wolverines are looking to continue their bounceback season under the control of head coach Jim Harbaugh, the Buckeyes look to remain perfect and win their second straight national championship. This game could decide the Big Ten East, a spot in the Big Ten Championship, and who will earn a playoff spot come December.

Oklahoma vs Oklahoma State on Nov. 28:

Two teams with hopes to make the playoffs will face off on Saturday to decide which team will remain on the bubble and which team secures its spot in the final four. Seventh-ranked Oklahoma will travel to fourth-ranked Oklahoma State for what looks to be a close rivalry game. Oklahoma State, led by sophomore quarterback Mason Rudolph, is undefeated at home and hopes to keep it that way.

Heisman hopefuls

Leonard Fournette:

Fournette has been a beast this year for Louisiana State University, recording 17 touchdowns so far. His quick and elusive play, mixed with his ability to run over defenders, puts him atop the Heisman race at this moment. With a difficult schedule remaining for LSU, Fournette will be faced with tougher opponents to see if he is truly the real deal.

Corey Coleman:

At the helm of Baylor's explosive offense, Coleman has already accounted for 1229 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns. Amari Cooper, last year's Heisman winner, had 1727 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns through the whole season, so if Coleman continues his sound performance, he will surely be a contender.

*All stats updated as of press time on Nov. 19

Predicted final four



First four out



Watch them win and hear their roar

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor and Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Girls' Basketball

After going 10-10 last year, the Bears are looking to improve to a winning record this season. Headlining for the Bears will be senior captains Celia Somers and Josephine Pittman, both four year varsity players. Along with the two veterans, the Bears have a lot of young talent coming into the program. Somers explained, "Compared to last year, we have a more competitive drive." She elaborated and said, "We have more girls who are basketball players, rather than just girls playing basketball." In years past, the team has been composed of many athletes, but not many girls who play basketball as their primary sport. The Bears are hoping to dethrone district champions and state title competitor Southfield Lathrup on their way to their first league championship in 28 years.

Boys' Basketball

Although having lost many graduating players, including alumni and standout Jon Radner, the Bears are hoping for yet another successful season. Senior Jerome Cobb said, "I believe we can go far this year. All of the returning players know their roles and everyone is waiting for the season to begin." With only six returning varsity players, the team is going to rely on their younger players, and they hope to build chemistry for the years to come. With the addition of a new assistant coach, Joe Sermo, there could potentially be some new aspects of play instilled during practices that may play a role in the games. After falling just short last year, coming in second place in the OAA Blue Division, they are aiming to win the league and advance past the first round in the district tournament.

Competitive Cheer

As the winter sports season approaches, the competitive cheer team is gearing up for another exciting season. The squad is looking forward to improving on last season, during which they, unfortunately, did not make regionals. The team goes to cheer competitions where they perform against other schools in front of a panel of judges; their routine is judged in different categories, and is then scored against the other schools. Hopefully, this year BHS will hit the top of the score board. "It's really great; you can really go out there and pour your heart out in front of the judges, parents, and the other schools, which is awesome," sophomore competitor Bolanle Oluwole said. The team knows that they can do even better, and are looking to represent the Berkley Bears in a great way, while also having a blast.

Royals vs. Mets World Series proves baseball is changing: Tigers should look to Sabermetrics

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Baseball is in a time of transition. The previous generation was ruled by the 'big spenders.' Teams like the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, Philadelphia Phillies, and St. Louis Cardinals were packed with big name sluggers and powerful starting pitchers, and were very successful with them. This year's playoffs confirmed that the era of big spending super teams in baseball is now over. Out of this year's 10 playoff teams, only three were in the top ten largest payrolls. The Houston Astros, Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago Cubs, Kansas City Royals, and New York Mets all built their teams through the draft and strategic trades, but not by signing the biggest names in the free agent market. Money no longer equals wins in Major League Baseball, and it is changing the entire philosophy regarding how to build a team.

One tool that has led to the rise of low spending teams are sabermetrics. Sabermetrics are advanced statistics that are calculated in an effort to quantify the value of players. One of the most popular sabermetric stats is Wins Above Replacement (WAR), which is an estimated amount of wins that each player earns for his team per season more than that player's replacement. Some franchises are now using this data to shape their entire organization. While many people in the industry were skeptical at the start, this tactic has been proven to work in the last couple of years.

Coincidentally, the Tigers are in rebuilding mode just as the league has entered a time of

transition. If the Tigers want to make it back to the playoffs quickly, buying their way there may be the fastest way, but if they want to be prosperous for an extended amount of time, they should look to Sabermetrics. The core of Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, and Justin Verlander has gotten more than their fair share of chances at a World Series title, yet they have not been able to win it.

While the Tigers will not be able to trade Cabrera, Martinez, or Verlander because of their massive contracts and old age, they should look to focusing on building up their farm system rather than getting more veteran players for the big league club. The Tigers do have valuable assets in Anibal Sanchez, Ian Kinsler, J.D. Martinez, Nick Castellanos, and Jose Iglesias and should trade at least a two of them for younger players.

Conventional logic points towards using sabermetrics, but junior Adam Cohn is skeptical. "I don't know how I feel about these new stats; it doesn't really fit the Tigers' style," Cohn said. One can see where Cohn is coming from as the current players the Tigers have do not match the style that sabermetric-oriented teams play, but that should change. The Tigers need to be different in order to be successful.

With free agency starting soon, fans will soon know if owner Mike Ilitch is willing to give up on his World Series aspirations, or at least put them off for a couple seasons, for the betterment of the Tigers and their entire organization.



8 THE SPECTATOR

Stafford is wrongful scapegoat for Lions' struggles

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

When things go wrong, the norm is for Detroit fans to unanimously pinpoint one person to bear all of the blame for the team's struggles. For the Tigers, it went from Ryan Raburn to Don Kelly, and then Kelly to Justin Verlander, and now Verlander to Brad Ausmus. For the Red Wings, it was goaltender Jimmy Howard. And for the Pistons, it was former General Manager Joe Dumars. This year for the Lions, quarterback Matthew Stafford is being ostracized by fans as the plague of the team.

Sure, Stafford is the quarterback, and the quarterback is undoubtedly the most important player on the field, but he still needs support from his teammates and fans. We all know that the Lions as a team are an embarrassment this year, but the only thing that separates us from being as bad as the 0-16 Lions of 2008 is Matthew Stafford.

First off, the Lions' biggest problem this year is the depleted offensive line. With the retirement of longtime center Dominic Raiola, the already below-average frontline is now among the least talented in the league. The team drafted an offensive lineman in the first round of the draft last year with Duke guard Laken Tomlinson, but he is still developing, former third-round pick Travis Swanson starts as a far below average center, and left tackle Riley Reiff has been rather disappointing.

In addition to these draft day let downs, the Lions wasted their top ten pick two years ago on tight end Eric Ebron in a feeble attempt to help Stafford. Since being drafted, Ebron has missed some time due to injury, and has not been effective while on the field, dropping passes and missing blocks consistently. Sure, Ebron has talent and has shown improvement this season, but many experts say the Lions should have taken a real impact player with their top ten pick, like star receiver Odell Beckham Jr., or the Cowboys' elite offensive tackle Zack Martin, and then waited another whole round to draft Ebron.

Some quarterbacks, such as Aaron Rodgers or Peyton Manning, work around a poor offensive line by getting rid of the ball quicker, which is what many fans suggest for Stafford. Senior Tori Nowak said, "[Stafford] takes way too long to throw it, so he gets sacked. Or, he tries to throw it too fast and gets intercepted." This is evident, seeing as almost all of Stafford's turnovers this year have been provoked by heavy pressure. For a quarterback known for accuracy, this would be a huge concern. However, Stafford has never been the generic, accurate pocket-passer, even in his Pro-Bowl season in 2011. All Stafford is known for is his powerful arm, capable of throwing the ball 80 yards downfield for a big play to Calvin Johnson, seemingly twice per game. Now, however, Stafford does not have the time to sit back in the pocket and let Johnson run even 30 yards, let alone 80 yards.

Former Offensive Coordinator Joe Lombardi recognized this problem last year right from the start of training camp. Because of this, he started designing short pass plays to get the ball out quickly, but this never really worked. Stafford's array of specialties does not include reading defenses and short-throw accuracy, so he was doomed to fail in this offense. Unfortunately, with the weak offensive line, there were no other obvious options for play designs. And do not let last year's 11-5 record fool you, the offense still struggled. The only differences were that last year the team had a slightly better offensive line and the second best scoring defense in the league.

Additionally, Lions fans, and really even NFL fans, need to address the huge elephant in the stadium in every Lions game: Calvin Johnson. Johnson, commonly known as one of the greatest receivers of all time, is no longer anything special. This is a touchy subject, but there is no way that Johnson should be considered a top 10 receiver in today's NFL. Established receivers like Dez Bryant, Julio Jones, Antonio Brown and A.J. Green surpassed the great "Megatron" a while ago, but now even the younger receivers recently drafted have Johnson in their rearview mirrors.

It does not help Stafford that the Lions have the worst rushing offense in the league by a longshot. Led by rookie Ameer Abdullah, who fumbles the ball once every other touch, the ground attack provides virtually no support for Stafford.

Joiqee Bell has shown good effort in a few runs, and Theo Riddick is among the league leaders in receiving yards for running backs, but the truth is, none of them have a chance of being effective behind the embarrassment of an offensive line.

Well, what about that tremendous defense last year that led us to the playoffs with the dominating defensive line, terrific new safeties, and great tackling linebackers? Yeah, that no longer exists.

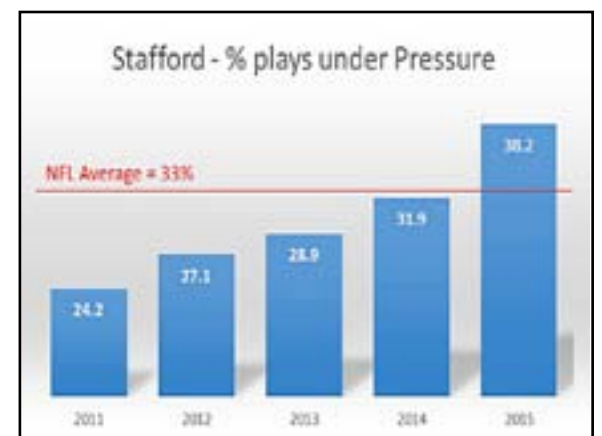
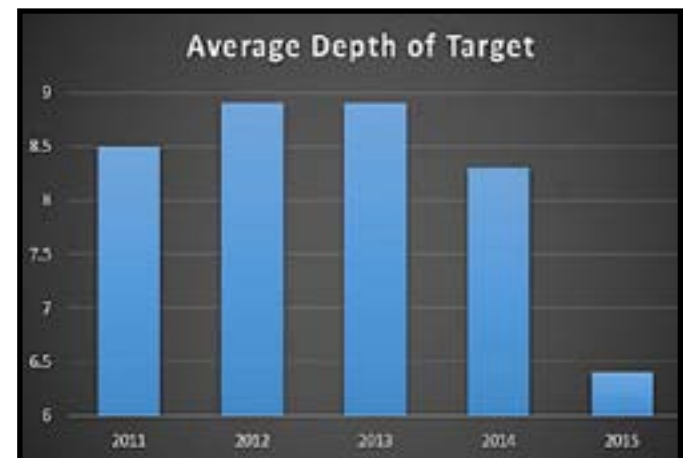
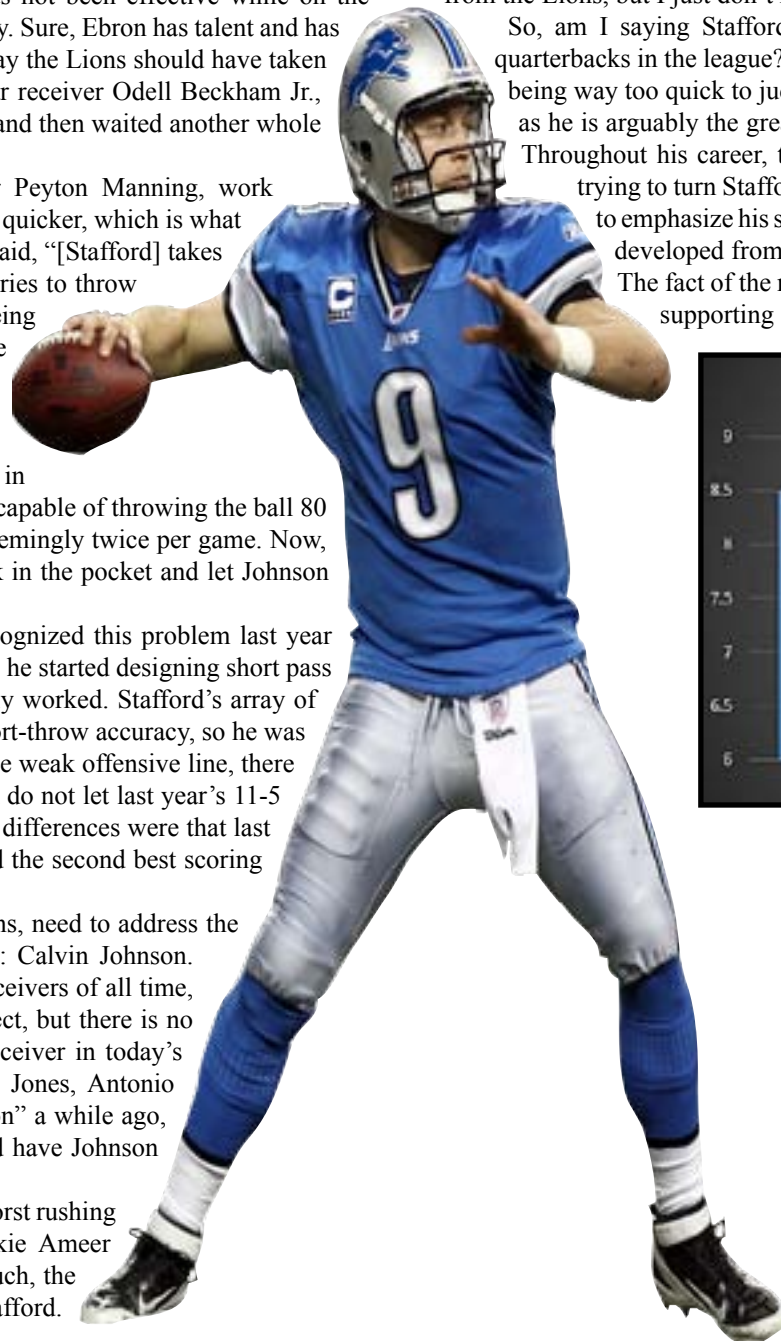
The loss of defensive tackles Ndamukong Suh and Nick Fairly has had a huge effect, and now Ziggy Ansah is the only guy on the defensive line that has the ability to rush the quarterback. Suh's replacement, Haloti Ngata, has drawn some double teams, but has not been nearly as disruptive as Suh or Fairly were.

As for the cornerbacks, the Lions have never had good cornerbacks. Darius Slay would be a decent third string cornerback, but if he is the star of the secondary, that should be a concern. Last year, the team was able to mask the weak secondary by putting a great amount of pressure on opposing quarterbacks, but they just cannot anymore. This secondary gets burned almost every play because of the subpar pressure, which allows too much time in the pocket for opposing quarterbacks against the Lions, leaving the defense with no chance.

In all fairness to the team, their schedule is probably the hardest in the league, especially early on with having to play the best teams in the NFC West in the Seahawks and the Cardinals, and also facing the Broncos and Vikings. Most people expected a terrible start from the Lions, but I just don't know if anyone could imagine it getting this horrendous.

So, am I saying Stafford is up there with Rodgers and Tom Brady as the best quarterbacks in the league? Absolutely not. I am, however, saying that Lions' fans are being way too quick to judge Stafford, who is stuck in a nearly impossible situation, as he is arguably the greatest and most successful quarterback in franchise history.

Throughout his career, the Lions' coaching staff has been far too wrapped up in trying to turn Stafford into a different type of quarterback, rather than working to emphasize his strengths and win games. Even if Stafford had been correctly developed from his rookie year, no quarterback could win with the Lions. The fact of the matter is that you could put the great Joe Montana with this supporting cast of the Lions, and even he would struggle to be .500.



These charts show the recent struggles that have been nagging Matthew Stafford and the Lions.

Gobble down a special Thanksgiving dessert

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

As we all know, the most important reason for Thanksgiving is the immense amounts of food we are allowed, even encouraged, to devour. Just remember, there is only one rule that must be followed, and that is to save room for dessert. Here is a quick, easy, and delicious dessert that is sure to impress this holiday season.

Reese's Pieces Turkey Cupcakes

What you will need:

- ★ Mini M&M's
- ★ White chocolate
- ★ Orange food coloring
- ★ Chocolate cupcake mix (follow recipe on box)
- ★ Chocolate frosting
- ★ Reese's Pieces
- ★ Hershey Kisses
- ★ Cooking spray

Directions:

Follow the directions on the box of cupcake mix and bake chocolate cupcakes. Make sure to let these cool completely before decorating.

Frost the cupcakes with an even layer of chocolate frosting. To make the head of the turkey you will first need to melt some of the white chocolate over very low heat on the stove and add the orange food coloring.

Next, take the Hershey Kisses and dip the top into the orange chocolate and let cool. Then, take some mini red M&M's, dip them into the remaining orange chocolate and attach them to the Hershey Kiss on the orange part.

Take some more of the white chocolate, melt it, and put it in a ziplock bag. Cut the corner of the bag so that it can be used as a piping tool; lay out some plastic wrap and begin to make dime sized circles—twice as many as the number of cupcakes you intend to make.

Before it cools, place the brown or blue M&M's in the center and let those cool. When they are cool, take some melted chocolate and attach them to the Hershey Kiss.

Finally, take the Reese's Pieces and arrange them in rows by color on the cupcake so that they look like the feathers on a turkey.

Place the Hershey Kiss/turkey head in the middle, and you will have yourself a festive and fun holiday treat! (Yields around 24 cupcakes.)



Photo by Emma Weisberger

The answers behind Canadian Thanksgiving

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

Canada is known as America's younger brother, and an off brand America. They have long weekends to just take 'a break' from work, say 'eh' way too much, and their version of the candy 'Smarties' is basically an M&M. They have free health care, and are technically still under the rule of the English Queen even though they have a prime minister. So what kind of country is Canada? And most importantly, what is Canadian Thanksgiving? It is nearly impossible to answer these questions, because there is no logical answer. I mean, it's Canada. However, with the American Thanksgiving just around the corner, The Spectator is here to attempt to provide the story behind the ambiguous Canadian holiday.

We all know the story behind our Thanksgiving. The pilgrims came over to America on the Mayflower from England and did not know how to work the complicated land. The Native Americans came to the rescue and helped the pilgrims to have a feast. The pilgrims were very thankful (even though they proceeded to mercilessly slaughter them), and now on the fourth Thursday of every November, we eat a lot of food. This is all very obvious to us, because there is a rational explanation behind our somewhat rational Thanksgiving. Yet none of this is applicable to Canadians, so what is their Thanksgiving?

After some diligent research, it seems that there happens to be a simple answer to this question. The first Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1578 when English explorer Martin Frobisher was thankful for having reached land. There were no pilgrims or Native Americans, but in typical Canadian fashion giving thanks was just something nice to do. However, when Canadian senior Ali Beallor (yes, she actually lives in Canada) was asked about the origins of her country's Thanksgiving, she racked her brain for an answer, but ultimately did not come up with one. Beallor phoned a friend and said, "Let me get back to you on that after I ask someone." When her friend did not know either, Beallor said, "I am pretty sure it's being thankful for the opening of Tim Hortons." Beallor then proceeded to say all the food that she had purchased at Tim Hortons for only nine dollars, Canadian dollars that is.

The Canadian Thanksgiving is just as Canadian as the rest of Canada. Its purpose is just to be nice and please people.

Using art to make a political statement

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Chinese artist and political activist Ai Weiwei, one of the world's leaders in contemporary art, is in the headlines again because of his most recent project. Ai was set to construct a series of portraits of political dissidents, individuals who reject political and social norms, out of Legos for a joint exhibition on free speech, where his art would be featured alongside the work of legendary pop artist Andy Warhol in Melbourne, Australia. In what Ai described as "an act of censorship and discrimination," Lego declined his bulk order on grounds of disapproving of the use of Lego for political reasons, sparking outrage from some members of the art community.

In a statement released by the company on Oct. 26, Lego spokesman Roar Rude Trangbaek said, "As a company dedicated to delivering great creative play experiences to children, we refrain, on a global level, from actively engaging in or endorsing in projects or contexts of a political agenda." In response to this, fans and admirers of Ai's work sent him Lego bricks in order to complete his project. The portraits will include depictions of political dissidents from all over the world, including Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, whose political party recently won a large majority in Myanmar's most democratic elections in 25 years. Ai implied over social media that Lego declined to support his project in part to protect their business interests, referring to the recent announcement that the company will be constructing a Legoland in Shanghai.

Ai's art and political activism make him a target for the Chinese government, who, in 2011, arrested him on suspicion of "pornography, bigamy, tax avoidance, and foreign currency irregularities," before releasing him with no charge after 81 days of incarceration. The Chinese authorities also revoked his passport at that time, only returning it to him earlier this year. English teacher Mr. John Duffy said of Ai's imprisonment, "If a measurement

of power is related to your government's interest in incarcerating you, he's certainly a key player in that community of political dissent." Ai's art openly criticizes the Chinese government's censorship of free speech and abuse of human rights. His most famous pieces include a series of photographs of famous structures, such as the Forbidden Palace in Tiananmen Square, the White House, and the Eiffel Tower, with his middle finger raised toward them in the foreground. He was also involved in designing the famous Bird's Nest Stadium for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a project he later regretted working on, calling it "merely a stage for a political party to advertise its glory to the world."

The Lego project will continue as planned, with more Lego bricks than necessary donated to Ai. He plans to use the surplus in future art installations.



Photo courtesy of Chris Gall/democracy-chronicles.com

Ai is an inspiration for many people who take an interest in art and politics.

Students celebrate America's heroes

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 9, the Social Studies department at BHS hosted their fourth annual Military Appreciation Day celebration. The event was started by U.S. History teacher Mrs. Jennifer Simone and the rest of the U.S. History teachers, including Mrs. Angela Church, who also helped produce it. The event consisted of an array of different performances to honor veterans and to ensure that they felt welcomed and appreciated.

The veterans' day celebration began with morning coffee to welcome the vets, followed by a grand entrance in the auditorium where the veterans were met with a round of applause and a standing ovation by U.S. History students and teachers. After their welcoming, everyone enjoyed performances by the Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band Ensemble, and Encore!. "It was really heartwarming to be able to honor the veterans and see how much such a small deed, like playing our instruments, can go such a long way and make them feel appreciated," senior and Jazz Band member Abigail Baker said. Students were also given the chance during this part of the celebration to recognize their own family members who are currently serving or did serve in the past and were unable to make it physically to the ceremony.

After the performances, the veterans made their way to the Collaborative Center, where they were interviewed by groups of U.S. History students. "It was an interesting learning experience to be able to hear all of the stories and honor the service men [and women]," junior and U.S. History student Jacob Tomlinson said about his experiences from the day.

Not only did students enjoy and benefit from the event, but the attending veterans did as well. "Sarge" Parr, an American Legion Department of Michigan 7th District Commander and Post 4 Patriot Team Honor Guard Commander, attended the event for the second time. Parr served 29 years in the U.S. army, from 1966 to 1995, as a Military Policeman (MOS) and Drill Sergeant. He now spends his days continuing his service by honoring his fellow veterans through many outlets. He gives speeches, awards medals and tries to make the members, in what he calls a "special fraternity" that includes other veterans, feel appreciated. Parr also participates in Race Across America, which "patronizes veterans' graves in December." He helps to put wreaths under the tomb stones of every veteran in America to make sure they are honored even after they have passed.

Simone stated that the event, in her mind, was created for a two-fold purpose. The first being to honor the veterans, and to celebrate and showcase their work as a service member, and the second being for her students. "I wanted U.S. History students to sit down and talk to veterans like they have never done before." She continued, "I wanted them to have intimate conversations to really hear their stories." Simone also noted that these are the types of learning experiences that the Berkley School District promotes. It was a unique experience and she said, "The administrators and central office are completely supportive of the event."

Veterans Day is a day to celebrate the men and women who have risked and given their lives to make everyone else's safer and easier to live. This event has been a success since its conception and will hopefully continue to raise awareness for such an important day in America.

The man behind the Instagram: an interview with Jay Alvarez

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

From skydiving in the tropics to DJing festivals in foreign countries, Jay Alvarez and girlfriend Alexis Ren live a life envied by many. These two Instagram famous social stars have made a name for themselves and their work with modeling, vacation videos, and their social media presence in general. Because of their rising celebrity status, The Spectator conducted an interview with Jay Alvarez himself to get to know a little bit more about his life and how he ventured into his line of work.

What would you consider to be your profession?

I would consider overall my profession as a creative director, although my work line runs through multiple things.

How did you first get on the path that has led you to the career you have today?

Honestly, being a kid with my camera; it all started there.

How do you afford the lifestyle you lead with vacations, excursions, etc...?

Modeling?

Me and my girl both work under model agencies as well as do a lot of branding work. Myself, I do a lot towards video and photo work.

How/when did you and Alexis meet?

I met her over a year ago on a job via a photographer. I actually jumped off my friend's roof in his pool and scratched my face really bad the day I met her.

Where has been your favorite place to visit?

Greece hands down; I have a lot of friends [there] and love the culture and people [there].

Did you go to school? If so where, and what kind of education do you have?

Most people are surprised when I [tell] them I stopped going to school after year seven in Hawaii. The grade system there is very bad. I did a state test at 16 and tested out of high school. My mom spent a lot of time home schooling me when I was younger, and I learned a lot being outside the class room traveling. Lots of things taught in school don't always apply to my profession, [as] creativity [is] a key thing in my work line. [However], I wouldn't influence others to do so.

What are your plans for the future?

Honestly, I've got a lot of different ideas and things but for now I'm working on making inspiring beautiful content in unique locations.

How long does it normally take for you to fully produce one of your vacation videos?

We are usually only... shooting 10% of what we do and I travel for months at a time so I'd say top to bottom maybe two months or so!

Where is "home" for you?

I'm from Hawaii, [but] I live here in LA half the year though.

What are your favorite things to do when you have free time?

[Hang out with] my girl
Surfing
Skydiving

What has been your best experience in a foreign country?

Sky diving over beautiful Polynesia or just some of the night outs with friends in Mykonos, [Greece].

How has your life becoming more publicized positively or negatively affected you?

It comes with a lot but it also reflects the person looking at us and judging their thought. Overall though, it's made our life more positive than anything.



Coming out with the truth: the phenomenon of National Coming Out Day

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

On June 27, it was handed down by the Supreme Court that same-sex couples can marry nationwide and on Oct. 11, thousands of people disclosed their sexual orientation and gender identity on National Coming Out Day.

Due to the recent Supreme Court decision regarding gay marriage, the day that started almost 27 years ago has now become popular because of the influx of people coming out on that day.

This day gives individuals the confidence to come out as lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ). Social media at this time was very supportive and encouraging. People all over the nation came out on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook using the hashtag "National Coming Out Day." The whole country let others know that if they decided to come out, they would be accepted.

Although this day is encouraging, many felt pressured as well. People may have felt obligated to come out even if they were not fully ready. In some situations, it was actually dangerous to come out due to circumstances that could occur at school or at home. The Human Rights Campaign said ostracized LGBTQ young adults were more than six times as likely to have high levels of depression.

"There's been a lot of strides in the LGBTQ rights this year, so I think that helped give a lot of people courage," sophomore Chloe Halprin said. In just this year, same-sex marriage has been legalized in all 50 states. Halprin, recently came out as bisexual on National Coming Out Day. Sharing this to the world took a lot of courage, but Halprin felt as if sharing her orientation was like, "sharing something else", for example, sharing, "[her] favorite color or something."

Halprin credits her courage to come out to friend and sophomore Melanie Shaw, who came out earlier this year. "I'm really happy that I helped people come out. I wanted to let people know that it is okay to be yourself," Shaw said.

Although some people feel pressured to share their sexual orientation with others, it is clear to see that National Coming Out Day, and the recent legalization of the same-sex marriage, has helped people such as Halprin and Shaw have the amazing courage to share their sexual orientation, and also give courage to others. Their actions have shown the importance of the nation's recent strides and the acceptance and tolerance that has occurred because of it.



The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of November

Snapchat

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Snapchat might just have a claim at being the best social network available on the App Store right now. It allows friends to keep in contact by sending pictures that last for up to 10 seconds before they disappear forever. Because words are not required, it makes it easy to show someone you are thinking about them without having to keep up the leg work of having a real conversation. Senior Gwen Wibbleman said, "Snapchat keeps on updating which keeps it relevant; it is honestly my favorite social media." The app caters to our generation's short attention spans in this way, along with having a few other neat quirks, like their ever rotating, dynamic filters. Snapchat stories are great to look at when bored in class, and nothing is more fun than messing around with the creative and interesting filters that were included in the last update. With streaks, best friends, and stories, Snapchat has quickly become one of the most widely used social networks here at BHS.

Urban Outfitters

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

For years, Urban Outfitters has been the go-to shopping place for teenagers looking for trendy and reasonably priced clothing. Urban was the one place where customers could mix and match different pieces to form looks that no other retailer could replicate. However, as the store has grown into the empire it is today, it seems as if they have lost sight of an important goal of theirs: making sure clothing and accessories were affordable for everyone. Customers were once able to walk into Urban Outfitters and find a T-shirt for around only 20 to 30 dollars, but now one would be lucky if they could purchase anything they like for less than 50 dollars. A store that once was a huge hit in the minds of many is now unfortunately seen as a rip-off after the increase in prices, without an increase in quality or originality of the clothing. Although it is possible for a comeback, one is not foreseeable in the near future. Until Urban better understands their clientele, they will be unsuccessful in selling their products.

SoundCloud

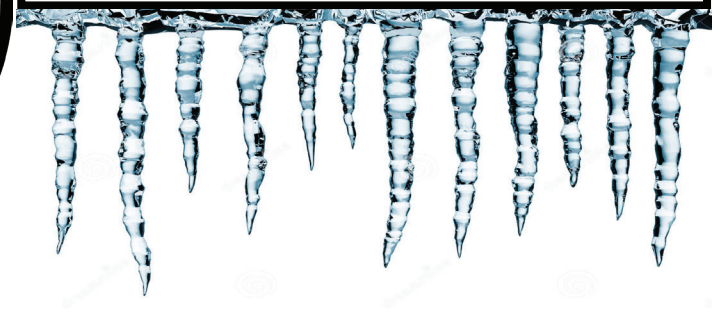
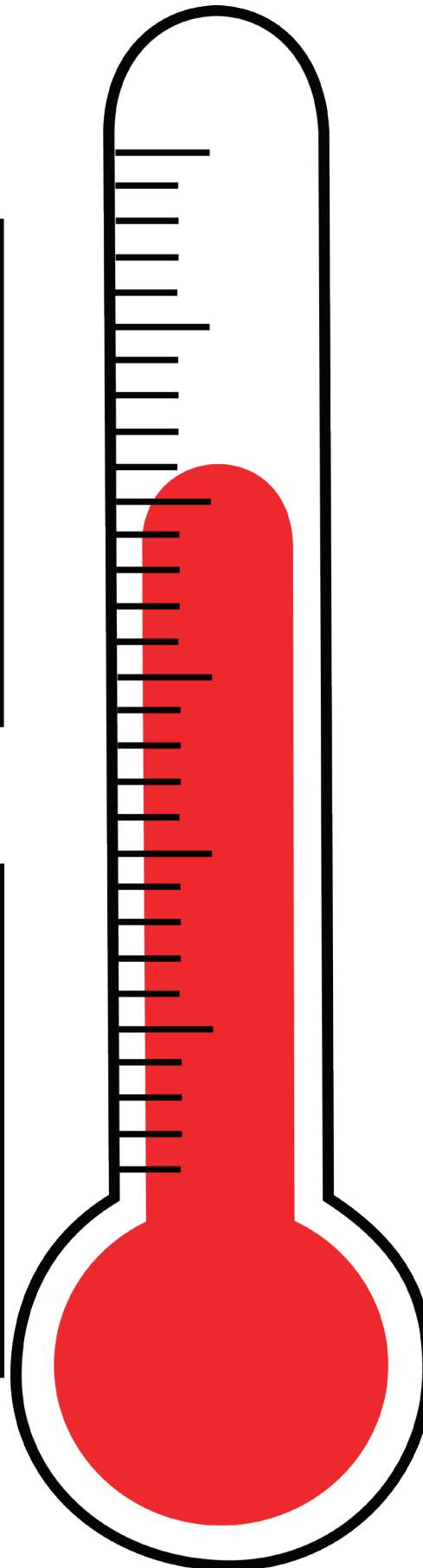
Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

Since the revolution of music streaming has become popular in the mainstream media, companies have been doing their best to create the best apps and services that can be used as a major streaming platform among listeners. From Apple Music to Spotify, there are a plethora of different apps that offer mostly the same services for a fee. However, SoundCloud is an option for free streaming. It gives its users the opportunity to listen not only to original versions of songs, but also gives them the ability to upload and enjoy remixes. The tracks are created by famous DJs as well as the common user who is trying to make it big by posting their music, share their creative talents with the world. The streaming service also gives users a very aesthetically appealing interface which is very easy to use, and makes listening that much more pleasurable. SoundCloud is pioneering the music streaming industry by making the listener's experience unique and affordable.

Wooden pencils

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

School is rough enough as it is, but having to use wooden pencils makes it all the worse. The worst news anyone could possibly hear is that a test must be taken with a non-mechanical, number two pencil. No matter how many freshly sharpened pencils one has ready to go, within the first ten minutes of the test, the pencil is most likely already dull. Also, if the tip of the pencil breaks off, it forces one to walk all the way over to the pencil sharpener in order to be able to use the pencil again. It is a hassle, and it is time consuming to have to get up during a test to sharpen a pencil, and no one wants to be that annoying kid who is cranking away at the sharpener, making distracting noises. If one chooses just to write with the dull tip instead, they are then left writing giant words because the lead is so wide. Not to mention that the erasers always leave tons of annoying residue behind. Wooden pencils are immensely irritating, and definitely the lesser option between wooden and mechanical pencils.



IT'S CLASSIC FOR A REASON

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

"Books, records, films, these things matter—call me shallow, it's the f***** truth." This was said by Rob Gordon in the 2000 film version of *High Fidelity*. What better way for young people to become more cultured than to develop a better knowledge of classic films, books, and music. These three entities are how people connect with themselves as much as they do with others, and how people create a better understanding of our complicated world.

Personally, it is disappointing that most of my peers are unfamiliar with world famous names and titles such as the movie *Dead Poets Society*, the musical sounds of Simon and Garfunkel, or the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. These titles and artists gave people deeper meanings and understandings of life itself.

Dead Poets Society taught people that being one's own person and thinking for oneself

"In some aspects, it is about knowing our culture instead of exact titles. It can connect, educate, or unify, and that is why it is important."

is a crucial aspect of life. Simon and Garfunkel helped millions of people grieve the death of John F. Kennedy with the song "*Sounds of Silence*." Author John Steinbeck used social realism to show the hardships and suffering of people in the 1930s which helped to change outlooks on the treatment of the working class forever. These specific names alone did wonders for people then and now, and one can only imagine how other titles and artists influenced people over the last 80 or so years. Although there are modern titles and names

that affect people now, those titles and names have not had as much power and influence as much as the "classic" ones have.

Young people now are suffering from a lack of intelligent and meaningful music and films because they have not been introduced to the culture of the mid to late 20th century. English teacher Mr. John Duffy said, "What counts for a cultural education is more than memorizing historical facts, or memorizing a math equation, or even knowing what $E=MC^2$ really means. It has to do with understanding cultural artifacts that have driven popular culture over the course of the last 70 or 80 years." Duffy added, "For me, it is less about knowing specific titles, and more about having a workable knowledge of things you should really care about and be able to talk about to other people." In some aspects, it is about knowing our culture instead of exact titles. It can connect, educate, or unify, and that is why it is important.

Being curious when it comes to wanting to better one's knowledge on the world's culture is important. I am curious that people have not questioned what the American culture has become, and that is most concerning. Junior Sammi Elkus said, "I think young people now do not know of some of the titles [that] some believe people should know, probably because it's old and outdated. It's not that I refuse to listen, watch, or read these titles, [instead] it's because I haven't gotten a chance to."

Even though the historical context of these texts might seem outdated, their meanings are timeless and are an important part of understanding modern day culture and who the American people are at any time in history. The past is what informs the present, and we must listen to the voices of those who came before to better understand ourselves.

WINDOWS 10: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

Since Microsoft released the first version of their new Windows 10 operating system in mid-July of this year, it has seen mixed reviews. Windows 10 seems to be a step in the right direction after Windows 8.1. However, in its current state, there are aspects of Windows 10 that overshadow its own improvements.

With Windows 10, Microsoft brought back the use of the greatly missed start menu. However, the menu was revamped and is now wider and shows options on the left, with a list of apps on the right. Also improving upon the interface, Microsoft added a new system called "task view," which shows all applications or windows that are open and allows users to easily switch between them. Thankfully, applications are no longer forced into full screen, a feature of 8.1 that made them a hassle to use. The last noticeable fix to the interface is the removal of the "charms" bar (the options used to pop out from the side of your screen). Instead, it has been replaced with the action center, which shows notifications from apps and settings. Microsoft implemented Cortana, a voice-controlled assistant that is comparable to Siri, to the Windows 10 platform. Along with new Xbox One cross platform capabilities, Windows 10 seems to be an all around better operating system than 8.1.

Even so, simple interface changes like these are not enough to justify upgrading to Windows 10. There are plenty of issues with Windows 10 that should be changed beforehand, such as the new automatic updater. Windows 10 will now automatically update the system, applications, and drivers on its own, and this setting can not be changed by users. While Microsoft has done this to keep systems running optimally and stay secure, it can cause problems with any third party apps that were previously installed outside of Windows Update, since they are unable to update through their own programs anymore. Senior Aaron Hite said, "It broke a lot of things on my computer, like skype... [it] just wouldn't start up and would drop calls randomly when it did manage to work." This wasn't Hite's only problem with Windows 10 either. He said, "It was also a lot harder to navigate and find things, [and] Cortana wasn't much of a help." After two weeks, Hite downgraded his operating system back to Windows 8.1 and has not gone back to Windows 10 since.

Another major issue is the lack of privacy that Windows 10 gives users. By default, the operating system keeps track of websites one visits and searches one makes, along with

other general information such as contacts and calendar data. The system will then send this data to Microsoft and other companies. While Microsoft claims it is to keep track of the operating system and improve upon it, it is clear that the information is stored for use in advertising. It is also unsettling that Microsoft should require personal information such as contacts, for something like directed advertising. While there are options to opt out of a few of the tracking systems, Microsoft does not allow users to turn off and avoid all the forms of data collection.

The free upgrade for Windows 10 is only available for the first year. That being said, users should wait out the full extent of that time before upgrading. Hopefully Microsoft will take action and buff out the scratches of the faulty operating system before then. While Windows 10 seems promising, it does not seem stable enough to go through the upgrading process just yet. Despite the improvements, it is still easier to just keep using Windows 8.1.



The Windows 10 platform is being displayed on a Microsoft Surface Pro tablet.

Photo courtesy of Getty images

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Border search reveals new Trump business venture, fails miserably

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

On Nov. 6, a fleet of trucks carrying Trump Rosé wine were stopped and subjected to a routine search at the Mexican-United States border in Arizona. Hidden in the bottom of the wine crates were handcrafted toupées, bearing an uncanny resemblance to ones worn by Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump himself.

After an initial investigation by the U.S. Border Patrol, the contraband was seized and tested. The case was then handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration after the wigs were linked to notorious Mexican Sinaloa Cartel leader Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán. “Forensics found traces of cocaine in the toupées that were tracked to a local crack house in Juarez, Mexico that Guzmán owns,” top DEA agent Harvey Finkelberg said in a meeting with press on Nov. 7.

When asked about the strange occurrence at a Sioux City rally, Trump had little to say about the issue, promising that he had no idea how the “imposter” hairpieces got there. “The thing I want to know is why [El Chapo] would want to mess with my award winning wine,” Trump said to his fans.

After Trump made inflammatory comments about illegal Mexican immigrants bringing crime and drugs across the U.S. Mexican border in July, allegations surfaced in early October that El Chapo was looking for Trump’s head with a bounty of \$100 million. Adding on to the mayhem, Fernando Ramírez Domínguez, thought to be El Chapo’s second-in-command, was caught by Mexican authorities after being linked to many murders in late October.

Following a brief investigation, the DEA has new information surrounding the feud between Trump and Chapo. “After talking to Domínguez, the DEA believe that Trump and Guzmán have been in cahoots for years. The majority of the wigs were going to Trump’s personal collection, while the remainder was to be listed on Craigslist,” Finkelberg said. “Mr. Guzmán’s anger at Mr. Trump was the result of business disputes that took place between the two.”

According to Sinaloa Cartel insiders, Trump admired El Chapo’s smuggling techniques and cost-effective labor. Both men also share a penchant for fashion and are avid trendsetters in men’s clothing, with the toupées only being the start of their shared entrepreneurial ventures.

Trump’s public anger at Guzmán started when Guzmán failed to secure an interview with Teen Vogue for the big debut of Trump and Chapo Deluxe Clothing Incorporated. In response, Trump threatened to cut Chapo out of the company’s equity. The violent threats and slurs towards Mexicans were only cover ups to make sure that the debut of Trump and Chapo Deluxe Clothing Incorporated would stay a secret.

On Nov. 9, Trump received a fine for assisting in the aid of drug trafficking with the Sinaloa cartel, and is now considered to be a low level cartel boss.



Photo courtesy of The Specialists LTD and Alibaba

The DEA marked their stamp on the found toupées.

Social justice groups object to “unfair” practices of U.S. government

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Recently, social justice groups have shed light on a previously untouched topic. These groups began to ask a crucial question of the U.S. Government: when is White History Month? We all know February (coincidentally, the shortest month of the year) is Black History Month, so, in the spirit of equality, white rights advocates are fighting for their own history month.

The movement for a White History Month was first proposed by Stephen Colbert in a satirical piece for *The Colbert Report*. It was then seriously picked up by FOX News host Bill O’Reilly, and the rest is history.

O’Reilly said that during Black History Month he was watching Nickelodeon and saw African Americans telling stories of their heritage. No Caucasians were represented, and O’Reilly recognized this as “clear cut racial discrimination,” and decided to take a stand.

The proposed White History Month would take place in “ideally a summer month,” and would “highlight all of the white achievements that are often left untaught in schools,” O’Reilly said.

When asked what specific events he planned to include, O’Reilly drew a blank: “Well, there’s slavery; wait, that was bad. Uhhh, what about... Nope, one million people died in that. How about... Nope, that’s taught in every grade.” He continued on and said, “We’ll work out the specifics later.”

Every sane person, including the original founder, Stephen Colbert, is strongly against White History Month. Colbert, not in character, said, “I started this as a joke... Every month is White History Month, including February.”

The bill, which would mandate a White History Month, is expected to pass both the House and the Senate. When asked if he would sign it, President Obama said, “I’ll just casually pretend to play along and sign it while I wait for the Punk’d crew to reveal themselves.”



Photo courtesy of recentermarin

Roads are unsafe: Additional driver testing over time is necessary

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

Everyone has been there—constant hand-switching on the steering wheel, a deep sigh of frustration, and a foot on the gas ready to accelerate when there is finally an opportunity to pass the car ahead going 10 miles per hour below the speed limit. Now listen, stereotypes are usually extremely incorrect and often times offensive, but I can tell you without a doubt that the majority of readers can relate to this situation when driving behind a senior citizen.

Just to be clear, this is not all senior citizens, but it is definitely many of them. It just so happens that in my personal experience, the occasional once a week unnecessary traffic hold up is due to a car going either too slow or hesitating to make decisions, and, more often than not, this driver is elderly.

However, just being an “annoying” driver is not a cause for kicking someone off the road, but sometimes these impaired senior citizens’ driving can lead to dangerous conditions for other drivers. Junior Grant Laramée experienced this first hand. He said, “Some 95-year-old hit our [parked] car, and then he got out of the car, looked at the damage, and then left.” Hitting a parked car, I suppose, is not that terrible of an offense. But getting out of the car, recognizing the significant damage, and driving off is cause for concern. Although people of all ages have done this in the past, this is only the beginning of it occurring with an elderly citizen involved.

Another example of the perils of some senior citizens driving is shown in a childhood memory from BHS English teacher Ms. Chelsea Lupenec. Lupenec said, “[My grandma] actually drove through my house over my front yard.” Her grandma was a healthy, 70-or-so-year-old woman who is still driving today.

Obviously, there cannot just be a giant ban from driving placed on all 70+ year olds, but it is absurd that someone who took their original road test 50 or so years ago could legally drive as long as they are physically able. “Physically able” means literally just being able to accelerate on the gas and being able to turn the steering wheel. It is inevitable that cognitive ability diminishes over time, and it is unfathomable that unsafe drivers, becoming more and more unsafe by the year, are not tested more often.

The problem is that there seemingly is no easy solution. No one wants the hassle of retesting every couple of years. And would only testing senior citizens be discriminatory? Senior Emily Wolford said, “I would say there needs to be testing every three years because [driving ability] can change so drastically.” Although this could be irritating for sufficient drivers, Wolford’s theory might be the only solution to make the roads safer for everyone. The only concern is if three years would be too frequent and unnecessary for consistently sufficient drivers. But it must also be considered that physical conditions can change drastically in far less than three years. So, three years might be the only amount of time that could act as a fair compromise to keep the roads safe while not taking too much time away from sufficient drivers.

The bad drivers in the world are not all senior citizens, and senior citizens could surely be capable drivers. All that is being brought to attention is that after being tested once at 16 years old, a person could potentially drive another 70-80 years as though their ability to drive has not diminished in the slightest. Not only is this a danger to others, but it is a danger to the elderly person him or herself, which is why an increase in driver testing is definitely needed.

Photo courtesy of Free Pik

Some are seeing red over Starbucks holiday cups

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

The most recent source of public outrage is not immigration, women’s rights, or gun control, but instead it is this year’s release of the annual Starbucks Holiday Cup. Every year, Starbucks releases a cup to signify the beginning of the holiday season, and this year they came out with a subtle, red, two-toned ombre cup free of other decorative elements. In the past, the cups have featured winter-related designs such as snowmen, ice-skaters, and snowflakes. It has also some Christmas-themed design elements of ornaments and reindeer. Many were outraged by the company’s choice to forego graphics, citing a hatred of Christmas as the reason, and took to social media to voice their frustrations.

A former pastor, Joshua Feuerstein, posted a video claiming that “[Starbucks] hates Jesus.” The video received over 10 million views and began a widespread panic that this decision depicts a “War on Christmas.” Twitter users have proudly shared their plans of telling baristas that their name is “Merry Christmas” so they are forced to spread holiday cheer by writing it on the cup and call the name when the drink is ready. However, designs in the past have featured non-denominational elements. Polar bears and penguins wearing scarves do not indicate a connection to a particular religious group, so this sudden “War on Christmas” is not something that has been present previously.

Starbucks vice President of Design and Content

Jeffrey Fields released a statement on the Starbucks newsroom website, saying, “in the past we have told stories with our holiday cups design, [and] this year we wanted to usher in the holidays with a purity of design that welcomes all of our stories.” In the past, the cup design had been a competition where people could submit their designs, but this new idea encourages everyone to be creative. The intentions behind this blank canvas design seem to be well-meaning and have nothing to do with a disdain towards Christian celebrations.

Even presidential candidate Donald Trump got swept up in the cup controversy, posing an idea to Americans: “Maybe we should boycott Starbucks.”

Whatever the true reasoning behind Starbucks’ choice to leave their cups blank, whether it be religious inclusivism, cost savings, or a blank canvas for stories, who cares? Americans should stop focusing on things that truly have no impact on the world and focus their energy on fixing the more important issues that plague the world. The fact that our society has focused their energy on being angry at something as trivial as a coffee chain’s holiday cup design is disappointing. There are wars going on and people are dying, so the fact that this is what it takes to make us upset says something about what we deem important. The fact that I even have to write this article makes me upset with the dynamic and values of our country.



Photo by Ammie Silver

Berkley student displays the new Starbucks holiday cup.



Photo courtesy of Joel McHale

Actor Joel McHale tweets about the lack of significance in the absence of previous designs.

The evolution of facebook

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

Facebook has accumulated a total net worth of over 250 billion dollars while logging over one and a half billion users across the globe. Individually, the use of Facebook changes as people enter different stages of their lives.

Middle School

All high schoolers know that our middle school days were filled with an embarrassing collection of posts, messages, and pictures on Facebook. Through "like for a truth is," confession polls, endless "Farmville" game invitations, and photo filters such as "camwow" and "lolcam," we come to be ashamed of the middle school Facebook stage. For many students currently in high school, Facebook dominated all other social media during middle school.

High School

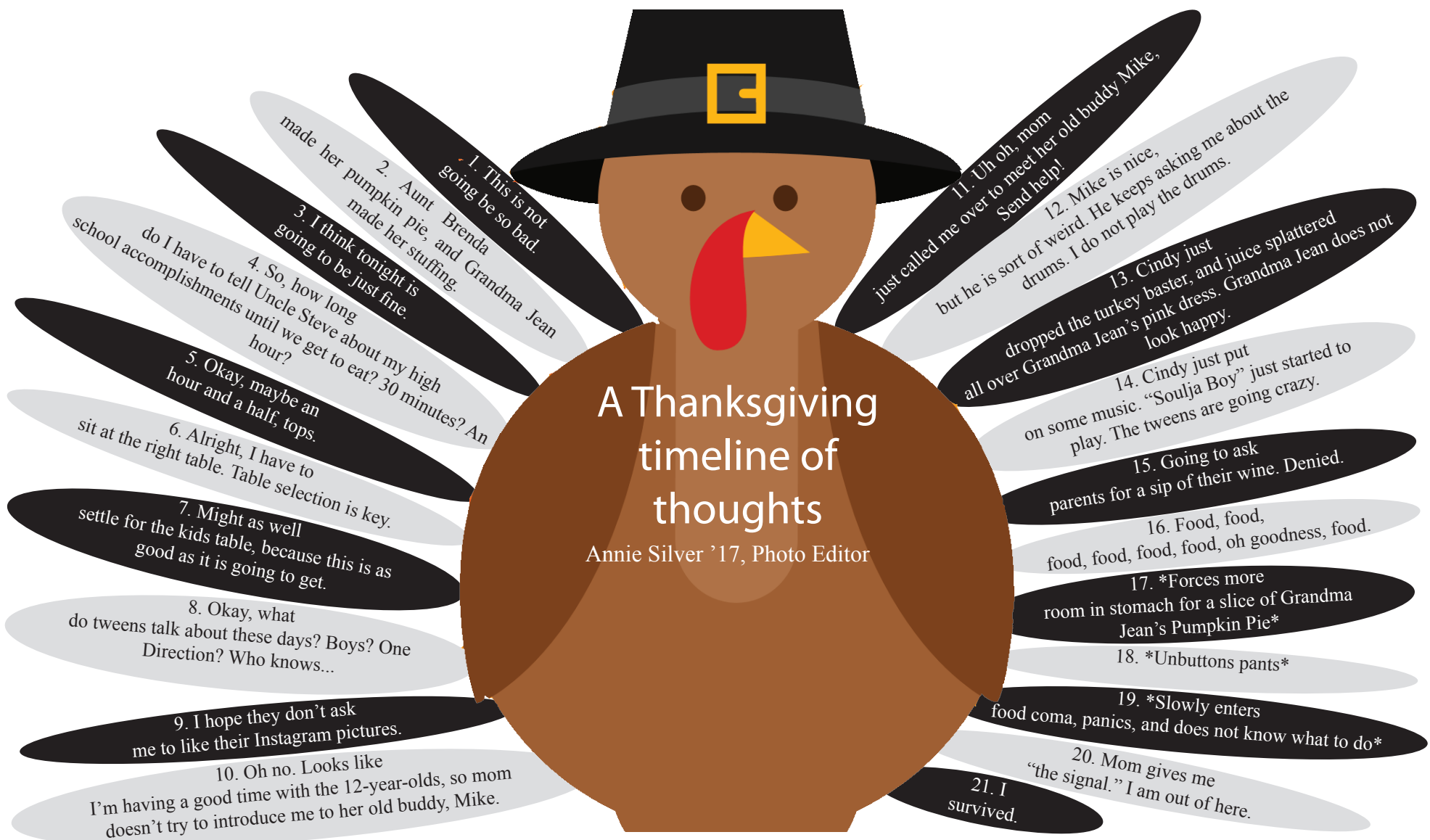
In high school, the majority of social media use is spent on Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram. While most people still have their Facebook account, most of the notifications come from random birthdays of a friend they added in middle school or an occasional photo one was tagged in by one of the few that still updates their photo album. Typically, this photo album is titled by a cheesy pun that correlates to the individual's grade. High school students' other main use of Facebook is to stalk their friends to find old pictures from their middle school days. These pictures often provide a good laugh and some feelings of nostalgia. Some are even shared on more popular networks like Twitter.

College

The transition from high school to college corresponds to a shift from Twitter back to Facebook. College students interact with many people each day, and Facebook is the easiest way to share memories and photos with one another. Facebook's "groups" is also a very useful mode because it helps students organize and communicate with others who are interested or participating in the same activities. This can include groups for a fraternity or sorority, all the pre-med students for a specific class, or the members of the philosophy club.

Adult Life

Parents and grandparents run Facebook; end of story. The many services for the older generation's use of Facebook include staying informed on their child's social life, publicly displaying every single family event, and plans for a high school reunion in the upcoming months. Another common utilization of Facebook for the older generation, and more than likely their favorite, is embarrassing their children and grandchildren with countless throwback pictures. These are usually pictures that one would prefer to not have on the internet.



What Ned said



Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Editor

By the time most students turn 18, they will have spent the better part of their lives in school. The morning bells replace the sound of birds in the early morning, and navigating the halls becomes a skill necessary for survival. Many students go into high school scared of what is to become of them. They spend the first few years in the halls of BHS trying to figure out how to proceed with their education. Sure, there are ways to find out how to manage one's self, like talking to upperclassmen about what they would do differently if they had the chance to do their their time over again. One could consult the internet, and perhaps get a helpful article regarding how to properly act at

school dances or in gym class. These resources, as helpful as they are, do not stack up to the teachings of one particular individual. This man is unmatched when it comes to providing advice on any topic school related, and he did it all with the help of his friends Cookie and Mose. Whether or not teens would like to acknowledge it, Ned Bigby had all the answers.

His show, *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide*, may be brushed off as a show for young children, and viewed as nothing but pure entertainment, but his words should be treated as gospel. The following tips are ones that have taken many people years to figure out when all they could have done was listen to Ned:

● **Try to make new friends your age and grade**

Every year, people leave. This is just a fact of life. New friends will enter, and old friends will leave quicker than the mind of an underclassmen can imagine. Do not invest all of your time into people older than you. It is always sad when seniors graduate because of the bonds that have been formed with them over the past years may be strong, but eventually they will go to college. The unfortunate individuals with exclusively older friends will often be left stranded going into their junior or senior years. Ned knew that is important for students to have friends that will be alongside them until graduation, so heed his warning.

● **Don't like something? Don't complain, change it.**

If an individual is in school, chances are they have complained about something. Actually, this is an absolute guarantee. What can so often happen is that that the complaining becomes constant, and instead of making an effort to change things, students are left unhappy and mad about everything. Go out and make a difference if you don't like what is happening. If you make that effort to change something, school will be a much more enjoyable place.

● **Due dates are closer than they appear.**

Be sure to do your projects/homework ON TIME! Oh, Ned, your brilliance went unappreciated, but this is the single most important tip you have ever given. Procrastination is deadly if practiced regularly, and many students will fall into the clutches of doom and plummet into the land of missing assignments. If one gets behind on their work, their grade will suffer along with their conscience

● **Clean out your backpack every week.**

This tip from Ned is one of the most important to ever be written in the good book of laws. Every so often, or even once a day, there will be a student walking down the hallway with what looks like an entire tree worth of paper spewing out of their backpack. Getting organized is something that will help not only students, but everyone around them. A student's peers will be more apt to work with the individual on group projects. There is literally no downside to organizing a backpack, so do it.

Stress less:

14 ways to get rid of stress

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

School can be hard. To help you get through this rough time as a high school student, here are 14 wacky tacky tips and tricks to help relieve stress. NOTE: Some are scientifically proven by me. Experiment with care.

1 Cry in the shower. For some odd reason crying in the shower really helps calm people down, try it!

2 Eat cookie dough. Cookie dough solves all problems. Duh.

3 Scream. However, caution, this may cause irritation in others, so instead, try doing it in a pillow or soundproof room.

4 Go on a drive while belting out Britney Spears's greatest hit, "Hit Me Baby One More Time." It is a real stress reliever, and it may help if you are with a buddy!

5 Squeeze a small hand-held object and try to shake it as hard as you can. This is my personal favorite stress reliever; it is quick and effective.

6 Run as fast as you can for at least a minute, your body cannot be very stressed when you are tired.

7 Try taking a cold, wet cloth, placing it on your cheeks, and holding your breath for 30 seconds. It will slow down your heart rate and lower stress.

8 Eating, staring, touching, or doing anything with food is always a great way to relieve stress-because food is always the answer to anything.Ever.

9 Go to sleep. You cannot be stressed when you are asleep.

10 Pet a dog/ cat/ furry animal until calm. This may also work with humans.

11 Take a bath. Light candles and breathe in through your mouth and out through your nose.

12 Ask a nearby friend to rub your back or stomach, all the while humming a soothing song.

13 Rub your earlobes.

14 Aggressively clean anything in sight.

Stress is a hard thing to get through. Attempting some of these stress relievers will hopefully cure your stress for the time being.

18 THE SPECTATOR

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP DISAPPOINTMENT: After 22 seasons, America's Next Top Model ends

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

"You wanna be on top?" has rung from the TV for the last 12 years as new episodes of *America's Next Top Model (ANTM)* premieres. Sadly, after getting the "top" television ratings since its first season in 2003, it has been decided by host and producer, Tyra Banks, that the 22nd season will be the last.

The ending was announced on social media by Banks with a long Instagram post that explained the reasons the show was coming to an end. The show has always been popular, but even more so with the emergence of social media. Now, many of the most recent episodes have featured hashtags and live tweets to connect viewers to the show.

ANTM has been on the air for 22 seasons, totaling 282 episodes. The show has a prestigious reputation for helping unknown models gain major fame. Some models have made it big, modeling for designer name brands such as Guess, Ralph Lauren, Pantene and Cover Girl. Analeigh Tipton known for such movies as *Crazy*, *Stupid Love* and *Warm Bodies*, also rose to stardom from *ANTM*.

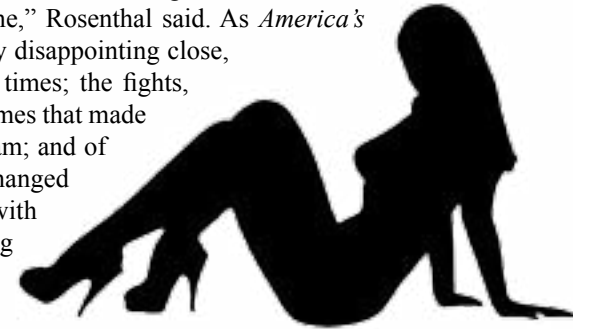
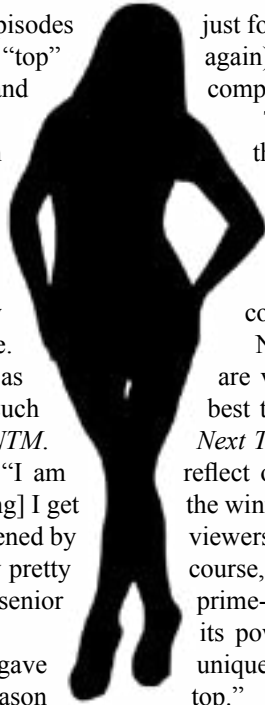
After this news was announced, fans are disappointed to say the least. "I am extremely upset that the show is ending. Every time that I think about it [ending] I get some tears in my eyes," senior Lucie Rosenthal said. Although many are saddened by the shows ending, it has been an amazing run for the show. "I am personally pretty upset although I know in my heart all good things have to come to an end," senior Sophie Steinbock said.

America's Next Top Model had special seasons that added to the show and gave the show an interesting and unique feature. The specialty seasons included a season

just for college students, All-stars (previous winners coming back to win the *ANTM* title again), London Models vs. American Models, and the recent addition of boys into the competition.

The show has even coined the term "flawsome" that empowers viewers by telling them that their flaws are what make people beautiful. "Having people in important positions reminding young girls that flaws are beautiful [is] a really important thing," Steinbock said. The show has had a major emphasis on being unique and being yourself. In the latest season, the show rid of their height requirement to show that no matter how short or tall the model, everyone has a fair chance to compete.

No matter who one is rooting for in the competition, fans alike are very disappointed that the show is ending. "*ANTM* was the best thing to ever happen to me," Rosenthal said. As *America's Next Top Model* comes to a very disappointing close, reflect on the good and the bad times; the fights, the winners, and the losers; the times that made viewers cry, laugh, or even scream; and of course, remember that *ANTM* changed prime-time television forever with its powerful message that being unique is what makes you "on top."



Bringing Back the Biebs

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

This is a statement I never thought I would be making, a statement middle school Aaron Berlin would cringe while reading: after being cast away into the depths of teen pop sensation hell, Justin Bieber, joined by the likes of artists such as Iggy Azalea and Demi Lovato, have been completely revived, and he is making much better music than before.

In the past few months, Bieber has released multiple new songs that are sweeping across the nation, nay, across the world. Two of his hit songs, "*What Do You Mean?*" and "*Sorry*," have both made their way to the top of the Billboard Top 100 chart at number one and two respectively, and currently, both stand in the top ten downloaded songs on iTunes. Highly regarded talk show host Ellen DeGeneres even dedicated a week of her show as "Bieber Week" to celebrate his new album *Purpose*, which dropped on Nov. 13th. This album includes 19 new songs and features verses from current pop culture stars Big Sean, Travis Scott, and Arianna Grande.

Bieber's fan base is bigger than it has ever been. Former "beliebers" have rekindled their love for the heartthrob, and new fans have emerged after listening to his recent material. Senior Gabe Blatz said, "His songs are so good, and very different than what he used to do. It's a really good rebirth, and I can't wait for him to release more songs." She continued, "I've listened to '*Sorry*' over 200 times."

This kind of fan dedication is exactly what Bieber needs to truly propel him back to the top of the music industry. With his new album and a steadily increasing fan base, Bieber is poised for his reentry into the spotlight and for a big year to come.



Photo courtesy of NewYork Daily News
Peter Yang

Astonishing apps

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor



Frontback

Who: Great for people who prefer picture related social media apps like Instagram and VSCO.

What: This app takes one picture with your device's front camera, and another with your devices back camera. It then creates a collage of the two pictures, and uploads that picture to your profile.

When: Any time really. It is especially great when out on a walk with friends, with a great view in front of and behind you.

Where: Concerts, at home, out to dinner, and anywhere in between.

Why: This app is a unique and new way to show others what you are doing. You can showcase your face and what is going on.



Companion

Who: Geared towards anyone who does not feel safe walking home alone at night or even during the day. It is a perfect app for college students.

What: Alert a friend that you want them as a companion to track your movements and make sure you make it to your destination safely. If you feel nervous or are certain you need the police, you may press a button and alert your companion or the police.

When: Whenever one feels unsafe at night, alone, or in a crowded place.


Where: Anywhere. The app tracks your location until you reach your destination.

Why: This app creates a safety net for anyone who feels vulnerable, and protects those who download it.

MARVELOUS MIXTAPES

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Music has always made every aspect of life more enjoyable, here are three playlists, each designed for a different mood or setting: studying, reminiscing, and celebrating. These playlists can also be found on The Spectator's website for your use and enjoyment.



THE SPECTATOR EPs

<p>Studying: When you need to get work done or even just relax, this is the playlist for you. Indie folk is calming and good for focusing, which makes it virtually perfect for studying.</p>	<p>Throwbacks: It is always nice to listen to your old jams. Sit back and reminisce with your best buds about yesterday's stars and all of the embarrassing middle school dances moments.</p>	<p>Pump Up: This is great to listen to before Friday's big game. Start listening to it about a half hour before the game with your friends for the apex of excitement.</p>
<p>"Twins"- Matt Kivel <i>Days of Bing Wild</i></p> <p>"The Cascades"- Fleet Foxes <i>Helplessness Blues</i></p> <p>"Instrumental IP"- Noah and the Whale <i>The First Days Of Spring</i></p> <p>"Three-Two"- Clogs <i>Veil Waltz</i></p> <p>"Ping Pong"- Gareth Dickson <i>Collected Recordings</i></p> <p>"Saturday Morning"- Real Estate <i>Reality</i></p> <p>"Nausea"- Craft Spells <i>Nausea</i></p> <p>"Blindsided"- Bon Iver <i>For Emma, Forever Ago</i></p> <p>"Ten Thousand"- Emilie & Ogden <i>Ten Thousand</i></p> <p>"Eleison"- Matt Kivel <i>Double Exposure</i></p> <p>"Mykonos"- Fleet Foxes <i>Sun Giant</i></p> <p>"Blues Run the Game"- Simon and Garfunkel <i>The Columbia Studio Recordings</i></p> <p>"White Winter Hymnal"- Fleet Foxes <i>Fleet Foxes</i></p> <p>"Creature Fear"- Bon Iver <i>For Emma Forever Ago</i></p> <p>"St. Augustine"- Band of Horses <i>Everything All The Time</i></p> <p>"Jane, I Still Feel the Same"- Matthew Ryan <i>Jane, I Still Feel the Same</i></p> <p>"Warm FootHills"- Alt-J <i>This Is All Yours</i></p> <p>"Transatlanticism"- Death Cab for Cutie <i>Transatlanticism</i></p> <p>"Holocene"- Bon Iver <i>Bon Iver</i></p> <p>"I And Love And You"- The Avett Brothers <i>I And Love And You</i></p>	<p>"Lip Gloss"- Lil' Mama <i>Lip Gloss</i></p> <p>"Kiss Kiss"- Chris Brown, feat. T-Pain <i>Kiss Kiss</i></p> <p>"No Scrubs"- TLC <i>Now & Forever- The Hits</i></p> <p>"Potential BreakUp Song"- Aly & AJ <i>Insomniatic</i></p> <p>"Promiscuous"- Nelly Furtado feat. Timbaland <i>The Best of Nelly Furtado</i></p> <p>"A Milli"- Lil' Wayne <i>Tha Carter III</i></p> <p>"Fergalicious"- Fergie feat. Will.I.Am <i>Fergalicious</i></p> <p>"Flashing Lights"- Kanye West <i>Graduation</i></p> <p>"Crazy In Love"- Beyonce feat. Jay Z <i>Dangerously In Love</i></p> <p>"Sk8er Boi"- Avril Lavigne <i>Let Go</i></p> <p>"Paper Planes"- M.I.A. <i>Kala</i></p> <p>"Poker Face"- Lady Gaga <i>The Fame</i></p> <p>"Ride Wit Me"- Nelly feat. City Spud <i>Country Grammar</i></p> <p>"Crank That Soulja Boy"- Soulja Boy <i>souljaboytellem.com</i></p> <p>"Baby"- Justin Bieber feat. Ludacris <i>My World 2.0</i></p> <p>"American Boy"- Estelle feat. Kanye West <i>Total Club Hits Vol. 2</i></p> <p>"Burnin' Up"- Jonas Brothers <i>A Little Bit Longer</i></p> <p>"TiK ToK"- Ke\$ha <i>Animal+Cannibal</i></p> <p>"Wannabe- Radio Edit"- Spice Girls <i>Spice</i></p> <p>"Look At Me Now"- Chris Brown <i>F.A.M.E</i></p>	<p>"Cha Cha"- D.R.A.M. <i>#IEpicEP</i></p> <p>"Jaded"- Disclosure <i>Jaded</i></p> <p>"Drunk in Love"- Beyonce feat. Kanye West <i>BEYONCE</i></p> <p>"Jumpman"- Drake feat. Future <i>What A Time To Be Alive</i></p> <p>"Jordan Belfort"- Wes Walker feat. DYLAN <i>Jordan Belfort</i></p> <p>"Bound 2"- Kanye West <i>Yeezus</i></p> <p>"7/11"- Beyonce <i>BEYONCE</i></p> <p>"Latch"- Disclosure feat. Sam Smith <i>Settle</i></p> <p>"Back Up"- Dej Loaf feat. Big Sean <i>#AndSeeThatsTheThing</i></p> <p>"I Like Tuh"- Carnage feat. ILoveMakonnen <i>I Like Tuh</i></p> <p>"I'm On Dat Tip"- Doughboyz Cashout <i>No Deal on Chill</i></p> <p>"Bricks"- Carnage, Migos <i>Bricks</i></p> <p>"Man Of The year"- Schoolboy Q <i>Oxymoron</i></p> <p>"Pressure"- Robb Bank\$ <i>Year Of The Savage</i></p> <p>"Don't Like"- Kanye West feat. Chief Keef <i>Good Music, Cruel Summer</i></p> <p>"Want Some More"- Nicki Minaj <i>The Pink Print</i></p> <p>"Shabba"- A\$AP Ferg feat. A\$AP Rocky <i>Trap Lord</i></p> <p>"Lean On"- Major Lazer feat. MO and DJ Snake <i>Lean On</i></p> <p>"Old English"- Young Thug feat. A\$AP Ferg <i>Old English</i></p>

Senior year is overrated

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Senior year is not what it is made out to be. In past years, I always did my absolute best in school without questioning why I had to do math at 7:40 a.m. or what school's purpose was in general, but this year I have found myself thinking about those very things nearly every day, while in school, when I am supposed to be doing math, at 7:40 a.m.

Everyone is told that junior year is the most difficult and important year of high school. It is the last year at which colleges look when considering students for admission, and it is the time when students take the ACT or SAT. There is no doubt that it is important, and as far as the work load for classes goes, it is probably the most stressful, but I would argue that through the first few months of senior year, this year has been the hardest because it has challenged me mentally.

I think it is fantastic that in America we have one year after 11th grade to say good bye to the classmates we have been with since Kindergarten and get ready to enter the real world, but the way that senior year is structured at the moment is frankly unproductive.

I am not suggesting that the Berkley School District is failing its students in any way. In fact, I think Berkley does a great job giving students tons of helpful resources and options. The problem is more with our country's system as whole.

In a perfect world, seniors would be given the opportunity to have a more flexible schedule. High school counselors could help students build their unique schedule and make sure they were using their time wisely. Everyone would need to meet minimum requirements of being at work or in the classroom for a certain amount of hours per week to make sure that people were not just wasting the last year before they are on their own.

Students who are looking to go to college could take classes in a new and different setting that would mirror the structure of a university. This would allow these students the opportunity to take classes that they care about, and get a learning experience that would help them transition to the style of education they will receive in college. This flexible schedule could also free up more time for students to have jobs and internships. Classes could be offered during the day and at night, so everybody would be able to do what fits their schedule best. This would give seniors time to learn how to manage their time while still getting an education and perhaps making money which could be used to pay for college.

This would solve one of the biggest issues with senior year: the course requirements. Since seniors are required to take a certain amount of classes in general as well as in specific subjects, seniors are left taking classes of which they are not interested. While this applies to all students, not just seniors, the younger students are still working to strengthen their college resumes, and are therefore focused on doing the best they possibly can. With seniors, they are worried more about their futures, whether it be college or something else entirely.

At the same time, students who are either late bloomers or are struggling to graduate would be able to choose to stay at the traditional high school one more year because that is what would help them reach their full potential.

Personally, I am taking a few useful classes this year like PA and AP Stats. These are types of classes that I intend to take in college, so they should be preparing me well for that, but at the same time, there are classes that are the opposite. Since I have to take at least five courses, I am forced to take electives that do not align with my future plans and are not the optimal use of my time when I could be getting valuable work experience.

A proposed plan to move seniors to a new building and free up their time to grow into mature adults, will improve everybody's senior year, because they will be using their time in a way that be more useful in the long run. I understand this plan would affect extracurricular activities and perhaps damage school spirit, but I feel that my plan is just a better overall use of our time. I certainly do not want to ruin classic traditions like football games and prom, but those things could continue, just possibly in different forms.

In the end, the goal of school is to educate the younger generation and help them reach their full potential. The current system where seniors are unmotivated throughout the whole school year only detracts from the progress made over the previous 11 grades. A change of scenery and focus would be huge in trying to continue the progress made over the years through senior year and into the next chapter of our lives. Although it is easy for us as a country to settle for what is already in place, if we want to maximize our productivity as a society and individuals we ought to change our system and make sure senior year is the most efficient use of time.

Muslims face a world of prejudice

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

A recurring flaw throughout our global society is the concept of stereotyping. Every religion, ethnic group, country, race and culture has certain associated connotations that conjure specific negative thoughts and images regarding other groups of people. For example, I am Jewish, so people who do not know me may assume I have a bigger nose, curly hair and a darker complexion. None of which are not true. A classic and prominent example of stereotyping is people regarding all Muslims as terrorists. After the events that took place on 9/11, there was a rapid increase in the amount of people that were unjustly wary of Muslims.

I have heard many people speak about the anxiety that they feel after having noticed someone who is thought to be Muslim on their plane. Given past terrorist attacks, this nervous reaction is something that can be explained, however, not truly justified. There are 1.57 billion people who practice the faith of Islam. Of this 1.57 billion, less than seven percent are what people would call extremist or radical, which would imply they are determined to end 'westernization.' Therefore, 93 percent of the Muslim population wants nothing more than to practice their own religion and go about their daily lives in peace. Yet, there is still great prejudice against Muslims.

A lot of the global population is unaware of the fact that more Muslims have been the victims of radical acts of terrorism than those who are non-Muslim, especially in Syria. The Syrian government stands for a denomination of Islam called Shiites. The government of Syria wants their citizens to conform to their standards, and has killed their citizens in order to get this point across. Even though Muslims are committing acts of terrorism on other Muslims, a lot of Americans associate everyone who practices the faith of Islam with terrorism. According to the Washington Post/ABC news poll in 2006, a whopping 33 percent of Americans believe that mainstream Muslims encourage violence against westernized, non-Muslims. Prejudice against this religious group has still been very prevalent since even though it may not be as high as it was right after 9/11. The prejudice against Muslims will potentially get even worse due to the recent ISIS attack in Paris on Nov. 13, in which 129 people tragically perished.

While the deaths in Paris are terrible and devastating, the number pales in comparison to the casualties of Muslims in the Middle East. It is extremely sad and ignorant of people to be prejudiced against all Muslims, as opposed to just the radicals. We must learn to dissociate stereotypes from an entire population because being of a certain race, religion, or culture does not make someone just like the worst representation of that group of people. The defense of our allies and western countries does have to include the hatred of non-westernized nations. We feel a sense of obligation to and unification with our allies, so many of us do not pay attention to the fact that a lot of Muslims abhor these acts of terrorism.

An article in Time magazine addressed religious Muslims' thoughts on the recent Paris attacks. Many of them stated that they empathize with the people of Paris. Like most of the rest of the world, they are devastated by the events that recently took occurred. "We are with you, people of Paris," a religious Syrian Muslim stated in the magazine. Just because one is Muslim, does not mean he or she agrees with these acts of terrorism. Most Muslims have experienced the same types of terrorism, if not worse, and are therefore more able to empathize with the victims.

The majority of the Muslims who are rebelling against the Syrian government, are the ones who disagree with the Islamic State. In fact, the Syrian government's anger towards their own people is propelled by the fact that many of their citizens are considered to be westernizing. The majority of Muslims are trying to support and empathize with the people of Paris, and with westernized countries in general. Yet we are providing these struggling, innocent people minimal to no support. On Facebook, in order to show support for the tragedy in Paris, there is a filter of the French flag to put over people's profile picture. Once again, yes, we should be supporting the people of Paris. But what about the 250,000 innocent people dead in Syria? What about the potential 800,000 Syrian refugees in Germany? We are showing support only for France because it is similar to us, despite the amount of people who are in the same position as the citizens of France. People have been posting pictures on Instagram and Facebook with the caption "pray for Paris." There has been a war in Syria for over four years now, but there have been no viral "pray for Syria" hashtags, due to the stereotype that Americans hold against Muslims.

People who tend to stereotype Muslims disregard that many Americans, ironically, tend to make terrorist-like comments towards Muslims. Here in Michigan, there was recently a serious threat made against Muslims. In Dearborn, there is the highest Muslim population not only in all of America, but out of anywhere outside the Middle East. In response to the attacks on Paris, a woman tweeted, "Dearborn, MI has the highest Muslim population in the United States. Let's f--- that place up and send a message to ISIS. We're coming." This type of racism and xenophobia is unacceptable in today's global society.

As of Nov. 19*, 31 states stopped accepting Syrian refugees. State governors are scared that the refugees, who are running from the same type of people we fear, will perform acts of terrorism in America. Even people high up in our government are listening to the stereotype Muslims. The generalization of and prejudice toward Muslims needs to come to an end. It is vital to reach the ultimate goal of world peace, and to support innocent people who are ultimately fighting by themselves. The only way to stop this perpetual cycle of prejudice is to put an end to the believing of and acting upon the harsh stereotypes against Muslims.

* Updated as of press time