

THE SPECTATOR

October 2015

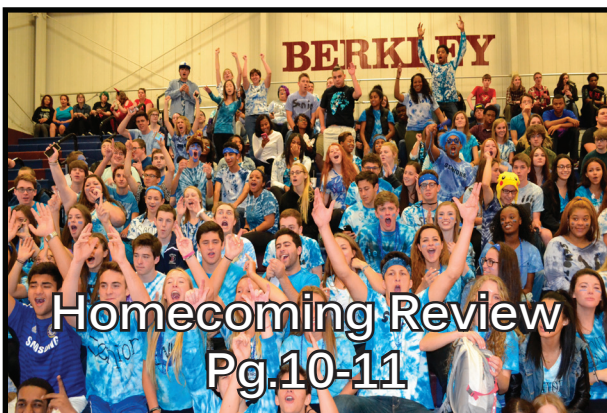


Berkley High School • Berkley, MI

Volume LXVI • Issue 1



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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.

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The Meh

List: Not good,
not bad, just meh.

Corey Lipton '16, Managing Editor

1. Zoup
2. Orange Julius
3. Propel
4. Michigan Adventure
5. Colored Chalk



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

Photo courtesy of drpeppersapplegroup, dreamstime, and ppcforhire

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4 THE SPECTATOR

United States bombs Afghan hospital; 22 killed

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

On Oct. 3, a United States aircraft mistakenly bombed a hospital while targeting Taliban forces in Kunduz, Afghanistan, killing 22 and injuring 37 more. The hospital was operated by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical treatment and humanitarian aid to impoverished and war-torn areas of the world. Of the individuals killed, 12 were hospital staff and 10 were patients, three of whom were children. All of those killed were Afghan. President Obama formally apologized for the attack on Oct. 7, and promised that the United States will make necessary changes to prevent similar mistakes in the future.

On Oct. 5, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, General John Campbell explained the situation, and said "Afghan forces advised that they were taking fire from enemy positions and asked for air support from U.S. forces. An airstrike was then called to eliminate the Taliban threat, and several innocent civilians were accidentally struck." The Taliban took control of Kunduz on Sept. 28, the first major city to fall to the Taliban since 2001. On Oct. 13, the Taliban withdrew from the city, reportedly to prevent further civilian casualties, according to the Associated Press. MSF denies U.S. claims of combat between Afghan and Taliban forces and claims that none of its staff reported any fighting in the area prior to the bombing. MSF General Director Christopher Stokes said, "the main hospital building, where medical personnel were caring for patients, was repeatedly and very precisely hit during each aerial raid, while the rest of the compound was left mostly untouched." MSF called for an independent investigation into the bombing under the pretense that a war crime had been committed.

In order to establish that a war crime has been committed, it will need to be determined that the Taliban was operating within the building. "You cannot, under the laws of war, attack sites such as hospitals, schools, [or] religious buildings. However, the hospital as a building can lose its immunity if it's being used by the enemy for military attacks," Gregory Stephen Gordon, an associate professor of law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, told CNN. The president of MSF, Dr. Joanne Liu, said the bombing "was not just an attack on our hospital—it was an attack on the Geneva Conventions," and added, "If we let this go as if it were a nonevent, we are basically giving a blank check to any country [engaged in armed conflict]."

Three investigations are underway, one from the U.S. Department of Defense, one by NATO, and a third from a joint U.S.-Afghan group. President Obama promised the investigation will yield "transparent, thorough, and objective accounting."

Smugglers profit on Syrian refugee crisis

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

In 2011, the Syrian civil war started when civilians began to protest and defy the current president's government. Today, the war still continues and people want out due to the present death toll of almost 200,000 people. The country is in political and economic chaos with the arising issues of hunger, illness, and the degrading economy. In a last ditch effort, refugees have turned to the business of smuggling. The smuggling of people is a lucrative business that exploits the weaknesses of people in harmful conditions.

Syrian smugglers make a profit by aiding refugees enter Europe and surrounding countries illegally. Smugglers make millions and millions of dollars, adding up to nearly \$26 billion a year.

Smuggling is a life-threatening business and many risk their lives by trying to flee. Those who are willing to make the trip to a different country have to do the unthinkable to get to safety. This includes being crammed into boats and buses, not eating for a few days at a time, and swimming long distances. A smuggling ship packed with refugees sunk outside of Libya and more than 200 people died. It is also not uncommon for refugees to be beaten or killed by the smugglers while they try to flee from Syria.

On top of being dangerous, the journey is also very expensive. Many who want to get smuggled out of Syria are remarkably poor due to the deteriorated economic and living conditions. Yet, the smugglers charge the price of \$1,500 a person.

At BHS, the new UNICEF club helps raise awareness to world issues, including the Syrian Refugee crisis. "UNICEF has provided many different utilities to the refugees and one issue we would like to talk and fundraise about here at Berkley is this crisis," sophomore and UNICEF president Natalie Burt said.

Smuggling people out of Syria has turned into an unsafe and costly business. Many have lost a huge amount of money from the high price and dangerous conditions of smuggling. But, from the formation of the new UNICEF club, people can help make a difference in Syrian lives.

Mass shooting occurs at Oregon's Community College

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 1, nine students were killed and nine were injured when a gunman opened fire at Oregon's Umpqua Community College. The mass shooting was carried out by 26-year-old Chris Harper Mercer. Mercer attacked the campus with three pistols and one rifle and he was heavily protected with body armor.

Mercer's intentions remain somewhat unclear. Mercer issued a warning to stay off the campus on Wednesday night, before the attack.

The attack began at 10:38 a.m. and after shooting at police, the suspect was found shot down in the middle of a classroom. It was later then confirmed that Mercer committed suicide. Mercer attended the Umpqua Community college from 2010 to 2012.

This is among the worst mass school shooting in the past two decades, including Columbine High School in 1999, in which 13 people were killed, the incident at Virginia Tech in 2007, killing 32, and the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, claiming 26 lives.

With the increase of school attacks in the past 20 years, the validity of the Second Amendment is being heavily questioned. It was noted by the LA Times that Mercer's mother unknowingly supplied her son with weapons while expressing her right to bear arms. President Obama was visibly angry when reporting on the attack and laid blame on the nation's failure to pass tighter gun laws. "This is a political choice that we make to allow this to happen every few months in America. We collectively are answerable to those families who lose their loved ones because of our inaction," Obama said.

The frequencies of these mass shooting in the U.S. have become routine. The U.S. continues to have an open and honest discussion about what can be done to reduce the number of victims of gun violence and limit mass shootings in the future.



Oregon's Umpqua Community College Welcome Center, the site of the tragedy.

Photo courtesy of Bob Trent

NASA makes historical discovery on Mars

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

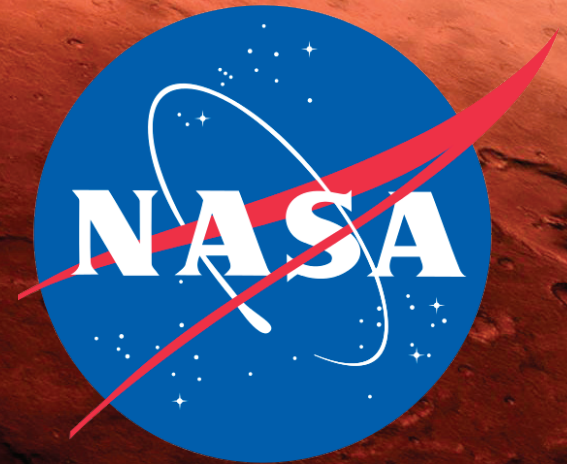
On Sept. 28, NASA announced that they have confirmed the finding of liquid water flowing on the surface of Mars. Data collected from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter satellite, or MRO, and rovers have shown strong evidence that led researchers to discover flowing water on what was once believed to be an arid planet.

Scientists have known since May 23, 2002 that there was water on Mars, but it had only been found in its solid form as ice. A few years ago, analysts first thought they found liquid water because of patterns in the geography of Mars. Pictures from the MRO and rovers show dark streaks on the sides of slopes and craters. These dark streaks are known as Recurring Slope Lineae, or RSL. Over time, the RSL are shown to change position as they seem to be pulled down the slopes by gravity. The RSL extend down hills during the warmer season, but then fade away during the cooler seasons. This pattern repeated over the years, and researchers strongly believed the flowing motion was caused by liquid water. However, these streaks moved when temperatures were around negative ten degrees Fahrenheit, a temperature where water is frozen solid and unable to flow. Researchers could not be sure that it was in fact water, and so they continued

to search for an answer to why the RSL moved.

The hidden piece to the puzzle was the chemical composition. By running a spectroscopy test on RSL locations, scientists analyzed how chemicals interact with the electromagnetic spectrum. Scientist found signs of chemicals known as perchlorates at these RSL sites. Perchlorates are salts and are able to absorb water, but whether the source of the water is the humid air or from somewhere underground, scientists are unsure. Similar to the way salt melts the ice on a sidewalk in the middle of winter, these hydrated perchlorates are able to flow because they keep the water from freezing. Now researchers had confirmed their suspicion about the RSL. It is in fact liquid water that creates these streaks on the planet's surface every year.

While this water may be far too salty to drink, it is still another step in the right direction for answering questions about life on Mars. Current missions may be unable to visit RSL sites due to them not being sterile, and fears of contaminating any microbial life that may be found there. However, future Mars missions will be properly sterilized and allowed to take samples to be analyzed for any signs of Martian life.



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Michigan's online sales tax surfaces in October

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

On Oct. 1, Michigan put the Main Street Fairness Act into effect. The act requires all online retailers with a "presence" (entailed by offices, employees, or any buildings) in Michigan, such as Amazon and Urban Outfitters, to collect six percent sales tax at the time of purchase.

While this law calls for sales tax upon purchase, this is not the first time that Michigan residents were required to pay tax on online purchases. Internet exchanges with Michigan retailers are already meant to be reported when Michigan residents calculate their taxes, but most people simply do not report these. The law is expected to bring in an estimated \$60 million in additional revenue from online sales.

The Main Street Fairness Act was developed by lawmakers to level the playing field for regular businesses that have to compete with online stores. "In this instance, what they're doing is they're saying that if you're a brick and mortar institution or retailer, you have to collect a six percent sales tax from your consumers," Northern Michigan University Economics Professor Tawni Ferrarini said when talking to uppermichiganssource.com. "By contrast if you only have a virtual presence, you don't. So they're just trying to put the two entities on equal footing," she added.

As the Main Street Fairness Act is a state law, any online companies that do not have Michigan presence are exempt from charging sales tax upon purchase. While additional tax money will be brought in, it is estimated that \$445 million from out of state online purchases will be lost without federal legislation, requiring all online stores to charge sales tax.

The ultimate goal of the law is to keep businesses both on and offline on the same, fair playing field between online business and retail stores. As this law becomes more relevant with the ravenous adoption of technology in society, the federal government will have to address online taxing. When next deciding whether or not to buy something on Amazon or support a brick and mortar store, Michigan residents will have less incentive to specifically shop online.



Photos courtesy of Breakwothy and Pixabay

"The ultimate goal of the law is to keep businesses both on and offline on the same, fair playing field between online business and retail stores."

RETIRE OR REWIRE: TODAY'S AGEIST MUSIC

Jordan McGee '16, Circulation Manager

If I were to ask today's teenagers their opinion on David Bowie's latest album, what impact Paul McCartney has had on music besides recently playing guitar with Rihanna and Kanye West, and most importantly, or how they might feel about Janet Jackson or Madonna producing yet another world tour, I would get some mixed responses. They would either be unaware of the artists or look at me in confusion due to a commonly held belief that these artists are too "old" to still be producing music.

Popular music is geared towards adolescents, which is clearly displayed in the music that was produced in the 70s and 80s. These groundbreaking artists, who have now aged well beyond their forties and fifties, still have the drive of a 20-year-old pop artist. There is only one explanation for the lack of appreciation and knowledge for these older artists: ageism.

Imagine listening to the top 100 on the radio and hearing the same conventional or similar voices to Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber when one grew up with David Bowie or Janet Jackson—it must be trying. These artists were initially intended for a younger audience when they were in their prime, but their music is ultimately timeless. These newer artists followed much later, seemingly in their footsteps, but popular opinion is not recognizing the importance of classic voices and their associated messages. These top 100 artists will continually play on the radio and overshadow older artists still producing music, simply because the older artists are viewed as irrelevant. Ultimately though, the definition of young and old is interchangeable depending on one's perspective. If the older wave of artists can put on a performance for both teenagers and those who are well into their fifties or sixties, music fans should not put them down for their age if they continue to outshine the average, young pop performer artistically.

Artists with the most dedication to their careers have the most loyal fans and put on the strongest shows of today. On Oct. 1, Madonna performed at The Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, putting on a strong two-hour theatrical performance with grueling choreography and a demanding set list even a performer in her mid-20s would have a tough time getting through every single night. While in attendance, it was easy to forget that she was a 57-year-old woman. She still loves to put forth 100 percent of her effort, as she has

throughout her impressive 33-year-old career. According to The Rolling Stone Magazine, Madonna herself stated, "When you do the same show every night, you get ready to be this life force and take the stadium or sports arena by storm."

It is taboo in this society for older generations to continue to act younger than they actually are. For artists, they are expected to say farewell to hardcore performance, and fans are to ignore the work of an artist simply because they are past the more 'relevant' age bracket. Not only is there a current feud with these older artists, but earlier in the year, BBC Radio 1 was involved in controversy with Madonna's fans by refusing to play a recent single of hers, claiming its lack of relevance.

Similarly, The Beatles experienced this period of questionable irrelevance when their song "Real Love" released in 1995, recorded with overdubs by the three surviving Beatles, was also not included in the BBC Radio 1 playlist. In this recent controversy, an unnamed BBC Radio 1 insider stated that "Living for Love" would not be played on the station because Madonna is "irrelevant and old."

There has to be something said about society as a whole when we degrade Janet Jackson or Madonna for putting together a complicated theatrical world tour at the respected ages of 49 and 57.

Artists should not have their work dismissed because of their age or because the typical teenager does not know the musical difference between Madonna and Meghan Trainor.



Photo by Jordan McGee

At 57 years old, Madonna rocks the stage at the Joe Louis Arena on Oct. 1.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS... IF YOU HAVE MONEY

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

It seems as though the only thing anyone can talk about right now is the 2016 presidential race. I am willing to bet anyone that if they turn their TV to any news station and watch it for more than five minutes, the election will be brought up at least once, probably more. As a 17-year-old who will be 18 when the election takes place in November, I have paid closer attention to the candidates in order to become a more informed voter. Through my deeper look into the events that take place even a year prior to voting, I have noticed some very troubling trends.

I quickly noticed that during election season, candidates are forced to pander to large organizations and very wealthy individuals for endorsements in the form of money and votes. They are pressured to say that they believe in things, most of the time in an extreme sense, in order to ensure that they even have a shot at the White House. Of course, getting the White House means that candidates must first win the primaries, which means winning the nomination for the Republican or Democratic Parties. The people who vote in the primaries are generally those who have more politically extreme ideals and therefore, without candidates saying that they believe in certain values, they would never receive the backing of the voters that they need to make it to that next step. For example, a self-described Socialist Democrat like Bernie Sanders will downplay the socialist aspect of his political views come general election time, but for now he is displaying himself as an extremist.

The purpose of the primaries is to decide who will represent the two parties in the election. The two-party system causes many roadblocks in the government, especially in the past few years. As I began to think about the concept of being aligned with one party or the other, it started to make less and less sense. Political parties are generally defined by their stance on economic and social policy. Republicans believe in limited government and more traditional social values, while democrats believe in larger government and

more progressive social values. The thing is, real people are not so black and white in what they believe. A person can believe in gun control and be pro-choice, but wish to have a smaller government when it comes to their taxes and monetary lives. The fact that people have to get confined to one side or the other only leads to more issues. It causes candidates to support things that they may not truly believe in just so that will fit the criteria to be the nominee for either party.

Another troubling aspect of the election process is the funding. Campaigns are extremely expensive, costing candidates millions of dollars. Since the United States does not have a limit on the amount of money that can be used by the candidate, it means that the more money one accumulates, the better their chances are of winning. Candidates rely on money from wealthy donors and businesses to back their campaigns. In return, these donors ask for favors and for their values to be shared by the candidate. The same 158 families have donated roughly half of the campaign money so far this election cycle, amounting to about \$176 million, severely narrowing the viewpoints of the candidates. Since rich people are able to donate as much money as they want, their influence gives them more than just a vote. This results in the candidate once again being not entirely truthful when it comes to their stance on certain issues.

While we still have a ways to go, the election process is disingenuous one, intended to manipulate the public with buzzwords and general support for large associations. Candidates only say what they say in order to ensure votes and make the only people that matter, the donors, happy. No one is able to truly speak their minds and say exactly what they want, because of the election and party system that this country has in place. In the end, nothing is about fixing the issues that are present in this country, but instead accumulating votes.

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ISIS launches space exploration program

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

The terror organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) made a major and unexpected announcement on Oct. 9: they will be launching a space program. The move is the most recent in a series of attempts by ISIS to gain recognition as a legitimate nation. Along with launching a space program, the terror cell is collecting taxes, performing frequent public executions, starting a competitive cricket league, and persecuting religious minorities—all the hallmarks of a well-functioning society.

The space program, called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Space, or ISISIS, plans to put a person into orbit by the end of 2016 and land on the moon by 2020. “The ultimate goal of ISISIS,” said ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, “is to burn the American flag the Western infidels disgraced the Moon with in 1969.” The very best scientists ISIS were able to coerce into working for them are working around the clock to figure out a way to start and sustain fire on the Moon. The lack of oxygen in the Moon’s atmosphere makes it difficult to keep a flame going. But the experts are optimistic. The Spectator received a message from an unidentified ISISIS researcher which reads, “The developmEnt of

space fire is progressing well. Nothing amiss to rePort.” The possibility of having fire in space would be a major breakthrough in the scientific community, because, well, it’s fire in space.

Others are less optimistic about the possibilities of ISIS’s new space exploration agency. The budget for ISISIS is roughly equal to that of its American counterpart, NASA, which some experts believe will not be enough to build a single shuttle, let alone operate an entire agency. “ISIS is out of their minds if they think they can run a space agency with the laughably low amount that NASA has to scrape by with,” Simonetta Di Pippo, the director of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, said.

A space program seems to be the only remaining last ditch effort that ISIS has to gain any kind of international legitimacy. It is less than successful currently, with the only reaction from the rest of the world coming from Hollywood director Michael Bay, who is interested in ISIS’s space fire research.

Trump wins Westboro Baptist Church endorsement

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

The Trump campaign received a big boost late last night when the Westboro Baptist Church, well known for protesting military funerals with obscene signs that attack homosexuals, immigrants, Jews, military personnel, and almost any other group out there, gave their endorsement to presidential candidate Donald Trump. This left many scratching their heads, seeing as the future of the WBC has been unclear since their founder and former reverend, Fred Phelps, passed away last March. The new leadership at the WBC is not public information, but we do know that they are pledging their full support to Trump. They WBC even plans on following Trump’s campaign across the country, hitting all possible military funerals along the way.

When Trump was asked how he feels about the endorsement, he said, “Do I agree with the Westboro Baptist Church on everything? No. Most things? Ehh, still no, but I love to see passionate Americans who work towards making this country great again. Speaking of making this country great, look at my hat: it says ‘Make America Great Again’ right on my head!”

The WBC’s endorsement of Trump comes as no surprise to political experts, as former Ku Klux Klansmen David Duke also thinks Trump is the right man for the job.

After winning the highly sought after endorsement of the WBC, the Trump campaign says it is eyeing bigger, better endorsements. Trump’s campaign people have been in talks with John Lennon looking for an endorsement. Upon discovering Lennon has been dead since 1980, they called it “a minor setback.”

Trump’s next speech is in Idaho, where he hopes to win the coveted endorsement of the local, homegrown Idaho potato.

High school senior accepts admission to wrong university

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Last month, 2015 high school graduate Zach Jones arrived in Madison, WI and quickly realized that he had paid his deposit to the wrong university.

After visiting dozens of midwest institutions with his parents, Zach had decided to apply to five schools. He went through the grueling application process and was eventually accepted to Purdue, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Since Jones knew this was one the biggest decisions of his life, he determined that he needed to revisit the schools he had been accepted to. “I have never needed to make such a big life choice; usually my parents just do everything for me,” Jones said.

Over spring break, Jones retraced his steps back to each of the three universities. He still loved them all, but he knew it was time to make a selection. All the schools were so different. Purdue has a Computer and Information Science major while Indiana only has one in Computer Science. Wisconsin’s school colors are cardinal and white, while Indiana’s are crimson and cream.

He knew he wanted a school that had over 600 clubs, a bus system, professors who were required to have office hours, and a study abroad program that sends students to at least 25 different countries, but besides that he was indifferent.

On April 30, Jones finally settled upon Indiana because their dining halls had orange soda and they

offered a squirrel watching club. “I thought I had committed to go to Indiana, not Wisconsin,” Jones said. “After studying their websites for hours each night comparing each school’s intramural karate facilities, I could not tell them apart anymore.”

Jones was super bummed when he first realized the crucial mistake he had made. “I blame it on the application process,” he explained. “Copy and pasting essays is really confusing.”

After a week of being a Wisconsin Badger, Jones said he regrets spending so much time focusing on the orange soda issue. “I didn’t spend enough time on the issue of the chocolate syrup that hardens onto the ice cream at the ice cream bar on Wednesday nights; it really is a game changer,” he said.

Jones is quickly adjusting to college life. He has a weekly routine that works for him, but admits he is yet to use the the karate facilities. He continued, “I did not realize my dorm would be so far away and that the classes would be so much work. They never mentioned that at the informational sessions.”

After talking to his high school friends that are attending other schools this year he has concluded that Wisconsin may have been the right school for him after all.

The **HOT** or **NOT**s of October

Ultimate Team

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

With the recent release of the new EA sports games including NBA Live 16, Madden 16, NHL 16, and FIFA 16, the game mode, "Ultimate Team" has returned to popularity. This game mode allows players to build their own team from real world players and staff, which they can then use to compete in both online (against other people) and offline (against the computer) tournaments and divisions. These players and staff are in the form of cards, which can be bought individually or purchased by the user in packs. The outcome of each game will differ in the coin amount the player receives, which allows one to buy different cards and packs to improve one's team. Ultimate Team is a unique way to play EA's games because one can drastically improve their team as time goes on depending on how much they play. A frequent FIFA Ultimate Team player, junior Owen Josefowitz, said, "Ultimate Team is a lot more challenging and more fun way to play the game."

11 Mile

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

Every driver experiences the struggles of being in a rush. Whether it is going home at lunch or trying to catch the bell in the morning, there is always a conscious effort to get to one's destination quickly while also simultaneously avoiding a ticket. With the 30 mile per hour speed limit on 11 Mile, people are always forced to drive slower than they are used to. As the speed limit drops from 35 to 30 miles per hour surrounding 11 Mile, it makes one think that a person running on the streets could keep up with them. With the added pressure of the police station in the area monitoring the speed limit, people become even more cautious than usual. Eleven Mile should not just be a speedtrap that provides Huntington Woods with additional revenue. In reality, everybody has places to go, and the slower speed limit on 11 Mile is just an unnecessary and time-consuming annoyance.

Venmo

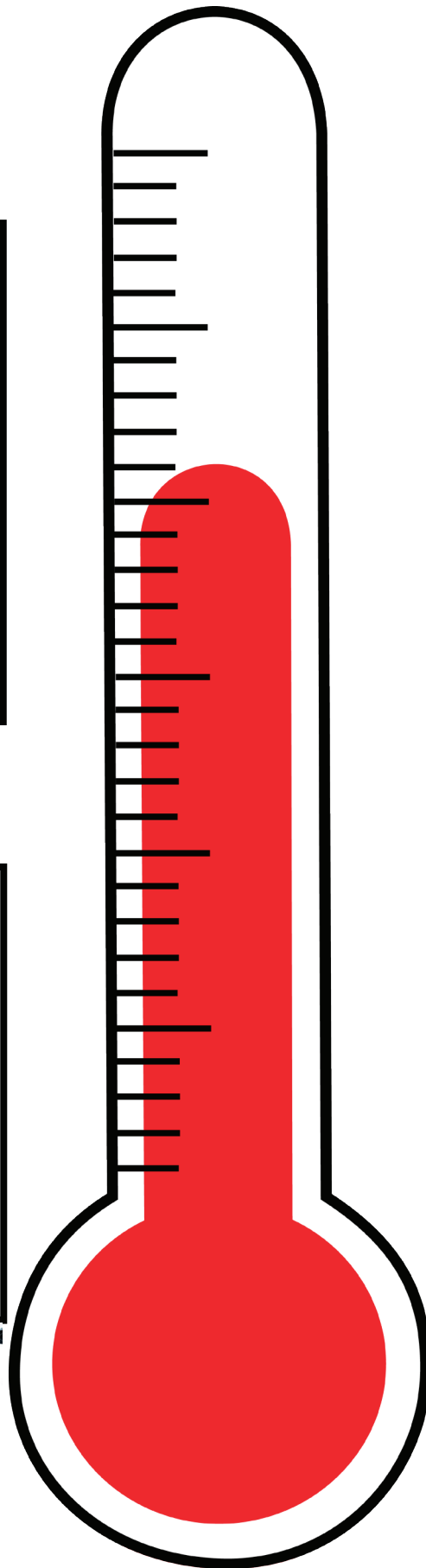
Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Exchanging money can be difficult, especially if one does not usually carry tangible cash on his or her person. The application, Venmo, created by University of Pennsylvania alums Andrew Kortina and Iqram Magdon-Ismail, solves this problem. Venmo allows friends to connect a bank account or credit card to the app in order to give and receive payments from user to user. Former Berkley Bear and current Michigan Wolverine Noah Kretchmer said, "Venmo is one of the greatest apps on the market right now. What makes it so amazing is that it takes away the concept of not paying people back." Kretchmer continued, "If I cover somebody at a restaurant they will just Venmo me on the spot, and I don't have to deal with the hassle of collecting money from them." It can be used to collect money for a bet, split a check, or even pay a friend back for lunch. Venmo makes life easier by securely making a wallet and a phone one entity, versus having to stress about both.

Apple Chargers

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

That fatal one percent. Your heart begins to pound because the very important text that you are in the midst of typing will not be able to send. Then you spot your new iPhone charger—one you have recently bought because your last one broke. You frantically plug in your phone. But wait. You do not hear the buzz indicating that your phone has begun charging. You have just experienced this before with your last charger, so you know what is coming. The wire moves a mere millimeter and, of course, you notice that your phone has stopped charging once again. Then there is a last instance of hope when you hear the buzz once more. A second later you hear it buzz again, and then again, and then again. You know that this is not unique to your last two chargers specifically, but that this is what all iPhone chargers are doomed to become.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR A DONUT?

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

The Spectator staff was curious to find out what random students were willing to do for a donut. I took it upon myself to go to the popular donut shop, Dunkin' Donuts, and select six of the most delicious looking glazed donuts. As I roamed through the halls, I called out random people who were lucky enough to have a chance to earn a free donut. Before I gave them the beautifully crafted circular treat, they had to prove to me that they deserved and truly wanted the donut.

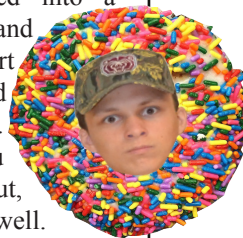
My first victim was sophomore Matthew Austin. As he excitedly approached me, begging for a donut, I willingly said yes, but for a price. I asked him what he would do for a donut, and he immediately proposed an offer I could not refuse. He immediately turned towards junior Kevin Jurvis and gave him a nice slobbery kiss on the cheek. He proceeded to get down on the ground and began a healthy work out with 20 push-ups. Austin finally earned a donut.



Walking up and down the math hallway, waiting for someone to walk out of a classroom, I ran into sophomore Mohammed Abdi and asked him what he would do for a donut. Awkward silence filled the air, so I stepped in and gave him a task to complete. I asked him if he would walk over to the stairs and roll up and down them. He accepted and strutted over to the closest set of stairs, got in position, tucked his head into his chest, and rolled down the stairs. He then took a deep breath, and I could tell that he was thinking "This is insane." He got in position once more and somehow successfully rolled up the stairs. I was incredibly amazed at his success, I applaud you, Mohammed Abdi, I don't know how you did it, but you have done well.



While hanging around the T downstairs, I bumped into the perfect guinea pig, the beautiful Vinnie Tenaglia. When I popped the question, "What would you do for a donut?" He immediately came up with a task that would most likely end up getting him suspended. Since I would not let him get suspended for a donut, he came up with a better idea. Tenaglia kicked off his fashionable Birkenstock sandals, put on his game face, and sprinted down the language hallway while shouting the words "It's good!" there and back. After his entertaining sprint, Tenaglia strutted into a nearby classroom and made the loudest fart noise that he could and casually walked out. Nice job, Vinnie! You deserved that donut, I hope it digested well.



A young gentleman tapped me on my left shoulder. As soon as I turned around, I witnessed a young man doing the Irish jig. This man was none other than senior Nick McLenon. At first, I was more confused than pleased. I wondered what he had intended at that moment, but I then realized that it was just another fool wanting a donut. I was not satisfied with his choice in task, so I gave him another chance to redeem himself. He marched over to the T stair railing and attempted to climb up it. Again, I was not satisfied. So, being the generous girl I am, I gave him one last chance. McLenon plopped down on the dusty floor and lifted both of his legs above his head. Impressed with his confidence and flexibility, I nodded my head and opened the coveted donut box. He chose the largest one he could find. Congratulations, Nick McLenon, congratulations.



The Spectator staff and I have come to the assumption that most people would do almost anything for a donut. Although I was not surprised by this, I was extremely satisfied with the enthusiasm of these five students. Thank you each for entertaining us.

Photos By Katie Cross and Annie Silver

DIRECTED STUDIES DIRECTED TOWARDS FUTURE CAREERS

Jordan McGee '18, Circulation Manager

As students advance in their academics, they have the opportunity to gear their classes towards the subjects they plan on studying in college.

Senior Zoe Lask, who has always had a taste for photography, decided this year that she would take a directed study for photography class. Senior Ryan Hurley resolved to take a sight reading and music theory directed study to align with his passion for music.

Located in Mrs. DePaulis' room, Lask has tremendous freedom with her adviser and is allowed to make her own decisions with taking and editing photographs as long as she lets DePaulis know her plans for the hour. Studying photography means that one must learn the basics of lighting and angles, as well as work Photoshop to perfect pieces of work. "My purpose for taking it is to better my photography skills and push myself in the types of projects I do," Lask said.

As far as the difficulty of the study, she does not find it too difficult, but slightly challenging. Lask explained, "I have to develop projects and when I hit a roadblock, I need to figure out how I can alter them."

Creativity is a necessity for any directed study, but specifically for one in photography, because the general props and ideas always need to evolve.

Lask recommends directed studies to her peers if they feel they are ready for a challenge and want to expand their creativity in a topic about why they are passionate. Lask is currently working on a project directed towards seniors and has posted fliers around the school to advertise.

There is a variety of different options for directed studies. Almost any interest a student takes to heart can be turned into a personal class with an adviser.

Senior Ryan Hurley has directed his studies to sight reading and music theory while working in the little theatre during third hour. He is invested in studying music, meaning he must grasp the concept of music theory and be able to read music similar to how one

learns to read a book. Hurley is looking into mostly music colleges, where they require him to have strong music theory skills in order for him to be an excellent candidate as a music applicant. For his first month of class, Hurley has been working out of sight-reading workbooks and will eventually be starting an online course with choral director Ms. Julie Anne Smith.

Students taking a directed study may have the urge to slack off because their class is an extension of their required education in which no one is observing them daily, but Hurley makes sure he gets as much done as possible during his work period. As far as the difficulty of the class, Hurley said, "It is challenging. I started with a lot of review, but I'm getting into some of the more challenging, more advanced aspects of theory."

As for applying the class to his future vocal performance major in college, Hurley said, "If I've learned one thing, it's understanding how important sight reading and music theory are to have a successful career in music." He added, "Just being a good singer isn't enough because there are tons of good singers. What separates a good singer from a good musician is hard work. Talent is not enough for success because there is a whole world of other things that go into achieving success."

Hurley definitely recommends directed studies to other students. He explains, "Only if you are highly committed to making the most out of it. Because of how much leeway you are given it is easy to slack off or procrastinate." Hurley added, "Those who take it seriously and have serious intention of getting work done will get the real benefit out of their class."

Directed studies are not for every student, but certain students like Lask and Hurley, who are interested in going above and beyond in preparing for a specific interest in college should look into focusing their studies in this way.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROAR



SPIRIT WEEK

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

Spirit week is always a special time for the students and staff. Student Leadership chooses five themes, one for each day, and students are encouraged to participate. This year, spirit week was full of many extraordinary events as the students and staff prepared for the big weekend.

The first day of spirit week was pajama day, and everyone that participated got dressed up in their most comfortable PJs. Tuesday was denim day, a very unique choice by Student Leadership, as it is not usually a part of the traditional themes. The hallways swarmed with jean jackets, jeans, jean hats, and much more excessively denim apparel. Wednesday was Berkley apparel day, and the students came to school decked out in their BHS clothes or chose to wear the colors blue and maroon in support of the school. On Thursday, the theme was Mardi Gras, which was the same theme as the Homecoming dance, and this got the students and staff very excited for the weekend.

On Friday, everyone wore the color that corresponded with their grade. Friday was also the day that everyone had looked forward to since Monday because of the pep assembly. It included many gutsy performances from BHS students. It started off with the introduction of fall sports teams. Senior Ryan Hurley then beautifully sang the National Anthem. The rest of the assembly included fantastic performances from the dance, cheerleading, and step teams. The robotics team added in their performance using a robot to shoot out t-shirts to the students. The air seemed to be full of electricity on Friday as the students prepared for the big weekend. "I love my school, so obviously I went hard on spirit week," senior and lip syncing champion Vinnie Tenaglia said. The assembly was a huge success and concluded with the announcement of the football game and dance to get the students hype.

One of the main goals of spirit week is to get the school pumped for the Homecoming weekend, and it certainly delivered. Homecoming weekend was a huge success, and it might not have gone as well as it did if spirit week was not as much of a sensation.

POWDERPUFF

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

A highlight of every upperclassman girl's junior or senior year is participating in the flag football game known as powderpuff. Each year junior and senior girls are pitted against each other, fighting to claim the coveted title of that year's powderpuff champion. Not only does powderpuff let girls show off their athletic abilities, but it brings the individuals within each grade closer as they strive towards victory.

Determination to win filled the eyes of seniors in blue and juniors in red alike as each team ran onto the field, ready for the intensity of the game. The whistle blew and the juniors started on offense. One of the first plays called out by junior coach, Justin Flood, was a trick play. The seniors seemed to be dumbfounded as a red shirt sprinted down the sideline to score a touchdown. Yet, blue pulled themselves together and ripped off the flag of junior Nina Palazzolo. The seniors started to doubt whether or not being champion was going to be as easily achieved.

Not too long after the trick play occurred, it came into light that the seniors were better than the first impression indicated. Senior offensive coaches Nolan Givan and Anthony Cobb called a play in the hopes that the seniors would soon put a number on the scoreboard. Senior Gabe Blatz faked a toss to the right to Lexi Tyler, and Blatz kept the ball, running it left down the sideline. To avoid her flag being pulled, Blatz quickly cut across the field and ran right. She sprinted into the endzone, and scored the game's first touchdown. "I remember being scared at first that I had gotten my flag pulled because I wasn't paying attention while I was running," she said. "I looked at the ref and he had his hands up. I got so hype and started to jump up and down. A bunch of my fellow seniors camp up to me smiling and screaming."

The touchdown only gave the seniors more motivation, resulting in putting more points on the scoreboard within the same quarter. After the ball was faked left by Tyler, she sprinted down the sidelines into the endzone all the way from the 40-yard line. Tyler said, "I felt so proud. It is something that I will never forget." After Tyler's touchdown, there was no scoring again until junior Elaina Adams had an incredible run into the endzone. She closed the 13-0 gap a smidge, making the game 13-6. There was not much time left after the juniors scored, and all the seniors had to do is waste the little time that was remaining. The final score was seniors 13, and juniors 6.

Both the juniors and the seniors played well, and with great sportsmanship. Everyone is excited to see the class of 2017 play the class of 2018 next year, after the juniors just narrowly lost this year.

THE GAME

Adison Kaiser '18, Website Photo Editor

The lights. The noise. The suspense. The energy. The Pack. Nothing can compare to the amount of school spirit and pride that was witnessed on Oct. 2, the night of the homecoming game.

The Bears took on their biggest rivals, the Royal Oak Ravens. As the last quarter drew to a close, the final buzzer ended with a score of 34-21, Bears.

Shortly after the game began, the Bears got right into their groove and gained sizable point advantage with their first touchdown.

The first quarter ended with the Bears leading over the Ravens, 14-0. As the game continued, the boys were able to maintain the lead. When the boys scored their final touchdown before halftime, the crowd was ecstatic. Once the game hit the end of the second quarter, the Bears were winning 20-7, dominating on both sides of the ball.

It was after homecoming announcements and the halftime show, that Royal Oak was able to get back into the game. They scored two touchdowns before heading into the fourth quarter, leading the Bears 21-20.

As the third quarter began, the Bears increased their tactics in order to protect the pack. Senior and captain Nolan Givan was able to score an 8-yard touchdown run early on in the final quarter, taking the score to 26-21.

In the fourth quarter a game changer occurred, and Austen Wood got an interception and returned it to the Ravens' 34-yard line.

With Berkley on the ball, junior quarterback Ross Herron threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Givan bringing the final score to 34-21. Head football coach Mr. Chris Sikora, said, "There were a lot of highs and lows, but the most important thing is that we came out with a win."

Even though the Ravens had a strong comeback after the half, it was not enough, and the Bears took home a much deserved win.

THE DANCE

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

Even though BHS is a far cry from Louisiana, the good times definitely roared homecoming weekend. The gym was decked out in purple, green and yellow, with students dressed to the nines, making BHS's Mardi Gras Homecoming one to remember.

Walking into the gym, students were transported to Bourbon Street in New Orleans in the heat of one of the rowdiest celebrations of the year, Mardi Gras. With the music loud and everybody ready to dance the night away, this year's homecoming brought the jubilee right out of Louisiana and put it straight into BHS. The decorations that surrounded the room brought the parade to the school. The glistening, sparkly backdrops, the light posts on every corner, and giant colorful balloons set the perfect scene.

Homecoming is more than just getting dressed up and taking pictures. The dance brought together freshmen, seniors and everyone in between for a night of memorable dancing and good times. "Homecoming gives me the chance to talk to new people and dance which is really fun; the theme was also set up really well," sophomore Shayna Brown said. The Mardi Gras dance met, if not exceeded, all expectations. "The way the gym was set up made it feel like we were actually at the Mardi Gras celebration," freshman homecoming court winner, Evan Payne said. The glitz and glam of the night, along with the Cajun craze that overtook the dance floor, made it an exciting time for all.

Student leadership did an excellent job executing such a marvelous dance that will live on in BHS history. The extravagant night left everyone roaring and anxiously awaiting what is to come next year.



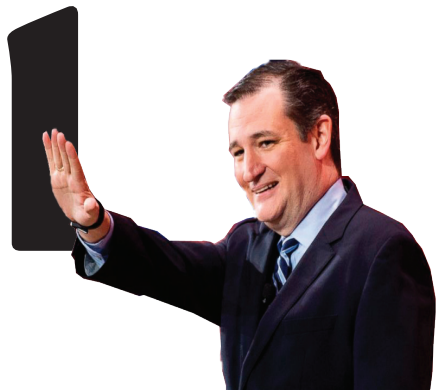
Photos courtesy of Hana Coon, Ainsley Melrose, Rachel Cantor, and Spectator staff



LAST MINUTE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

With Halloween approaching fast this weekend, many people are scrambling to figure out what to wear. Due to the vast amount of homework all are given, I doubt even two thirds of the student body has had any time to think of a Halloween costume. So, if I am correct that most of you do not have a costume, here is a handy list of some last minute costumes:



TED CRUZ

Wear a suit and tie, and carry Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham around with you. This one is for you, Goldberg!



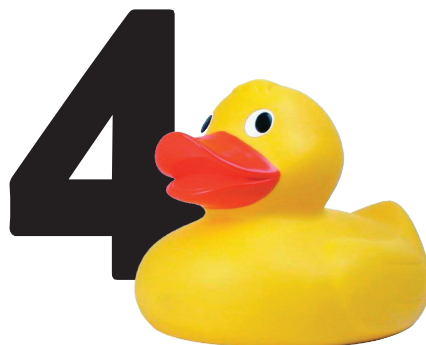
TACO BELLE

Dress up like the Disney princess Belle, and carry around Taco Bell with you.



IDENTITY THIEF

Write a bunch of different names on name tags, and place them all over your clothes.



CHICK MAGNET

Buy a lot of rubber duckies, and glue them all over your clothes. Carry around a large red magnet. You are done



STEVE BUSCEMI

Print out a picture of Steve Buscemi's eyes and tape them over a pair of glasses, and then just wear normal clothes.



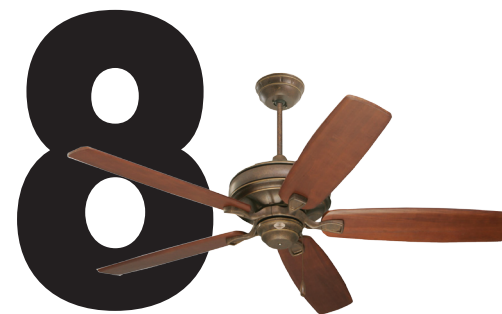
FORMAL APOLOGY

Dress fancy and carry a sign with you that reads, "I'm sorry."



WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS

Wear a T-shirt with "life" written on it and pass out lemons to people.



CEILING FAN

Write on a shirt "Go Ceiling," and cheer about how great the wall above your head is.

Faces in the crowd: New staff enters the den

Josh Segall '17, Sports Editor and Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Sarah Klug- Math



- Hometown:** Stevensville, Michigan
- College:** University of Michigan
- Hobbies:** Hiking
- Favorite Food:** Nutella

“My favorite moment was when I realized my students burrito was actually a pencil case.”

Ron Fritz- Math



- Hometown:** Novi, Michigan
- College:** University Of Michigan
- Hobbies:** Biking
- Favorite Food:** Mexican

“My favorite moment thus far was getting dragged across the gym during tug-of-war by the cheating seniors.”

Emily Olsen- Science and Math



- Hometown:** South Lyon, Michigan
- College:** Wayne State University
- Hobbies:** Running and biking
- Favorite Food:** Sushi

“I liked the pep assembly because it was the first time everyone came together as a school and I really liked the school spirit.”

Chris Fabry- Special Education



- Hometown:** Royal Oak, Michigan
- College:** Western Michigan University
- Hobbies:** Soccer
- Favorite Food:** Steak

“I liked meeting the new staff and how everybody works. It’s like a family around here.”

Jenna Haener- Marketing



- Hometown:** Southgate, Michigan
- College:** Eastern Michigan University
- Hobbies:** Relaxing outdoors
- Favorite Food:** Baked mostaccioli casserole

“I like the atmosphere and the kids. It’s all very warm and welcoming.”

Tim Folmer- Band



- Hometown:** Harper Woods, Michigan
- College:** Central Michigan University
- Hobbies:** Running and community band

•**Favorite Food:** Pizza and Buffalo Wild Wings
“My favorite moment was the last [home] football game, watching all the seniors perform was very powerful.”

14 THE SPECTATOR

The creepiest of unsolved mysteries

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Director

Movies and television shows tend to set the precedent that mysteries will always be solved in the end and that everything has a resolution, but in reality, there are plenty of cases that go unsolved. The following are just a few hair-raising mysteries that still remain unsolved to this day.

Hinterkaifeck: One case of unsolved murders happened on a German farmstead called Hinterkaifeck. The warning signals were there early on. Six months before the murders, the maid decided to leave the farm, claiming it was haunted. Andreas Gruber, a farmer, noticed signs they were not alone. He told neighbors that he heard footsteps in the attic, the house keys had disappeared, and that he found a set of footprints in the snow leading up to the farm, but none leaving. Then, on the evening of March 31, 1992, the six inhabitants on the farm were murdered. This included Gruber, his wife, her daughter, her daughter's two children, and the new maid, Maria Baumgartner, who first arrived on the farm earlier that day. The autopsy showed that the murder weapon was a mattock, a type of pickaxe. Investigators also found that the young daughter Cäzilia was alive for a few hours after the attack. She tore out her hair as she lay in the barn among the bodies of her grandparents and her mother. Over 100 suspects were questioned, and investigations even reopened in 2007, but a killer was never identified.

Dyatlov Pass: A group of 10 hikers set out for an expedition across the northern Ural Mountains in Russia in March of 1959. While they were on a category III hike, the most difficult kind, all members were highly experienced in these extensive ski tours and were prepared.

As they were hiking through a storm, the group ended up shifting to the west off the path and near Kholat Syakhl, or Dead Mountain. It was there that they decided to set up camp, and what happened next nobody knows for sure. After being lost for 20 days, over a week longer than anticipated, search parties went to find the hikers. They found the group's tent badly damaged, cut open from the inside, and nine sets of footprints (most without shoes)

leading away down towards the edge of the forest. They found the first two hikers' bodies by the edge of the forest next to the remains of a fire, in nothing but their underwear. Searchers found three more bodies between the trees and the camp. The last four hikers were found almost two months later under four meters of snow about 75 meters deeper in the woods. These four had on more clothes, including clothes from the first two bodies by the fire.

These new four bodies did not die solely of hypothermia like the others, one had major skull damage and two had severe chest fractures. The force that did the damage was equal to that of a car crash. One body was also missing her eyes and tongue.

The most popular theory is that they tried escaping from some sort of avalanche, and that they were partially clothed because their extra clothes were soaked by snow and rendered useless. While others believe it was a site of old military testing, as there was a lot of scrap metal found in the area. They believe that old parachute mines, which detonate about a meter above the ground would have caused those injuries on the hikers.

These were only a couple of a long list of cases that have yet to be resolved. With each passing day, the list continues to grow. Modern mysteries such as the lost Malaysian flight continue to occur. It is unfortunate how even after all these years, and with all this advanced technology, circumstances can still hide the full story from the public.

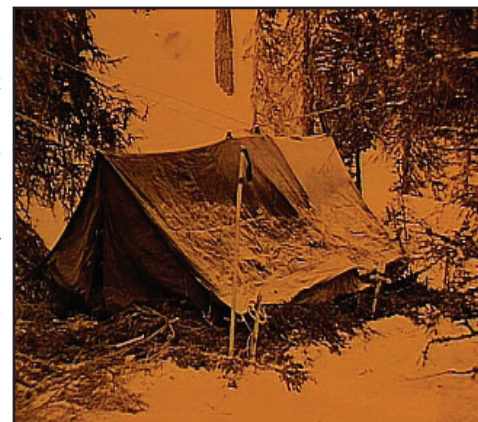


Photo courtesy of Justin James

This infamous tent belonged to the hikers of the Dyatlov Pass Incident.

Apple takes over the world with new iPhone

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

Out with the old, and in with the new; on Sept. 25, Apple released their newest phone, the iPhone 6s. At major apple stores, such as ones in New York and Chicago, around 200 people waited outside of each major retailer for up to seven hours in order to collect their pre-ordered phone out of more than four million pre-ordered in total.

The release of the iPhone also came with the unveiling of iOS 9, the most advanced software from Apple. One of the most popular and desired components of iOS 9 is the battery life saver, which now enables the battery life to last up to an additional hour. The new phone features 3D touch, which allows one to apply a heavier pressure

when touching the screen in order to view a message or email without actually opening it. Another new element is live photos, which take a short video instead of a picture, to make it seem as if the picture is actually moving. The iPhone 6s also includes the most cutting edge camera that has retina front flash and high definition facetimeing, providing the clearest picture of any iPhone. It is also has the strongest iPhone body made of aerospace aluminum and glass that is the most durable on any smartphone.

Another feature that is drawing in buyers is the new color option of rose gold. Although it comes off slightly more pink, the new selection is a success. "I think the

new color is really cool, and if I were to get the 6s, I would definitely get the rose gold," junior Shawn Gabriel said. While others think that rose gold is too flashy or feminine, Apple stated that with the new color, they have sold more than 13 million iPhones which is a new record.

With sales skyrocketing and technology enthusiasts going wild, the new iPhone is an all-around success. The new upgrades and color makes the iPhone the hottest smartphone on the market. Every new iPhone leaves Apple customers wondering how any more advancement could be made. Just when it seems as if Apple has done it all, they continue to impress.

Photo courtesy of George Otsuba

FALL MOVIES HEAT UP

Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Director and William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

While most moviegoers enjoy big summer blockbusters, the majority of critically acclaimed films come out in the time between fall and early winter. With the award season nearing, the amount of well-made movies being released is ramping up. As far as well-respected franchises go, the fall seems to be the new hotspot as opposed to just the summer. With many highly anticipated movies being released, it is hard to choose which movies to look out for.

Steve Jobs



Release Date: Oct. 25, 2015

The 2013 biopic about the late CEO and co-founder of Apple Inc., simply titled *Jobs*, was released into both critical and box office failure. While *Jobs* was a disappointment, *Steve Jobs* (2015) is receiving praise before theatrical release. Directed by the Academy Award winner Danny Boyle and written by fellow Academy Award winner Aaron Sorkin, *Steve Jobs* will span 16 years, dramatizing backstage events from three major Apple releases. Starring Oscar nominee Michael Fassbender, this film is

intended to be a stark portrait of a modern icon whose products have had a monumental impact on the world. Sorkin is well respected for his ability to portray witty yet flawed characters, which was evident when he wrote the screenplay for *The Social Network*, the 2010 award winning biopic about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. This new film will be more polished than its 2013 predecessor, as both the cast and crew are well versed in gripping dramas. While nothing is certain, this movie has serious potential to be an awards juggernaut.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user KAMIKAZOW

SPECTRE



Release Date: Nov. 6, 2015

Since the conception of the James Bond character in 1953, the movies, books, and all other forms of entertainment involving the international spy have been a smash hit, and *Spectre* should be no different. The plot follows Bond, portrayed by Daniel Craig, on a mission to take down a secret organization named Spectre along with the villain of the movie, portrayed by Christoph Waltz. This movie has loads of promise with supporting



actors and actresses like Ralph Fiennes, Naomie Harris, Ben Whishaw, and Monica Bellucci. The veteran actors, along with the expertise of returning director Sam Mendes, who directed the previous film, *Skyfall*, should make this movie one of the most memorable Bond films to come out in the past 20 years. With Nov. 6 just around the corner, fans will be getting their gadgets, suits, and best accents ready for the premier.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Marseille77

STAR WARS

Release Date: Dec. 18, 2015

The return of the epic space franchise is projected to break box office records, win technical awards, and judging by the cast and crew, also win the hearts of audiences and critics alike. Written and directed by J.J. Abrams, who rejuvenated the popular new *Star Trek* films, Episode VII is sure to be in good hands. The cast is impressive as well, with a combination of fan favorites and newcomers. The returning cast members include: Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia Organa), Mark Hamill (Luke

Skywalker), Kenny Baker (R2-D2), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), and Anthony Daniels (C-3PO). The new characters will be played by John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o, and Gwendoline Christie. Most of the additional cast is from dramatic independent films and are new to the beloved franchise. It will be fascinating to see how the young and old casts will blend together to tell the new story of the intergalactic battle that engaged millions.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Kyro

THE MAN LEFT BEHIND

Adison Kaiser '18, Website Photo Editor

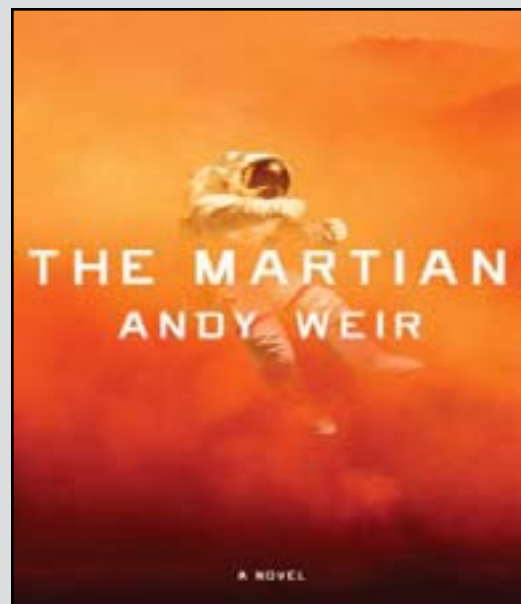


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Epik Baifr

On Oct. 3, *The Martian* was released; the film is based on the book of the same title by Andy Weir. The movie has already received praise for its excellent script.

The story is intended to share with the viewers the experience of being left alone on a different planet trying to survive with almost nothing. In the film, the main character, Mark Watney, portrayed by Matt Damon, and his crewmates go on a mission to Mars that is supposed to last 31 days. The trip ends sooner than anticipated when they are forced to depart on day 18 due to a severe storm. As they are getting on to their ship, a piece of debris hits Mark Watney, ultimately causing his crewmates to think he is dead and leave him behind. What happens next is scientifically appealing, but also for any viewer who like the adventure genre.

The book consisted of the same storyline as the movie and was just as good, if not better. "I was a huge fan of the book, and I thought the movie did a really good job with it," senior Eli Falk said. Although there were changes in the film, the movie was well put together and stuck relatively closely to the

storyline of the book.

The tone of the movie is encouraging, and it left an inspirational message with the viewer that tells people to never give up no matter the situation. Overall, *The Martian* was an experience to remember. As a filmgoer, if you are someone who likes sci-fi, action, and comedy, then this is the movie for you.



Photo courtesy of Flickr user NASA/Bill Ingalls

Lead actor Matt Damon promoting *The Martian* on HBO.

THE SPLAT

The thought of watching the channel Nickelodeon in its current state for an extended period of time is enough to make anyone cringe. With shows like *Breadwinners*, one that is inexplicably about ducks and their everyday lives while delivering bread to the inhabitants of a fictional planet, many people sit and long for the day when Nicktoons were good.

People recall the days when they could watch cartoons that were witty and funny to people of many different ages, or shows that are original and clever on many different levels, and are not just goofy and random. Well, the wait should only be a few months more, as Nickelodeon announced the launch of its new channel, The Splat.

With the lack of original ideas and cartoons being released by many channels, including Nick, the launch of The Splat is an attempt to bring the television audience back to the prime of classic odd cartoons, such as *CatDog*, *Rocko's Modern Life*, and *Ren and Stimpy*, along with kids classics like *Rugrats*. This channel, while not released yet, has many social media profiles discussing what their plans are, and encouraging fans of the 90s television staples to get hyped for the return. If anyone wants to follow the green slime covered action of their favorite 90s shows, look no further than the hashtag #TheSplatIsComing.

Get ready for the strange, the unpredictable, and the borderline disturbing action found in some of these 90s staples, for The Splat is coming.

Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Director

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Chris Del Castillo

RENT A ROOM AT THE CORTEZ

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Ever since October 2011, the television channel FX has been reinventing horror with their engrossing series, *American Horror Story* (*AHS*).

After moving out from the murder house, escaping the asylum, vanishing from the coven, and vaulting from the circus, the insane and captivating characters have checked into Hotel Cortez for the latest installment of the show. It is safe to say that *AHS Hotel* will continue showing the mature content and gore that fans expect from this cutting-edge series.

The first episode opens with two Swedish girls visiting the hotel, and getting less than exceptional service from series regular Kathy Bates, who plays the hotel receptionist known as Iris. After a series of violent crimes, police detective John Lowe, portrayed by Wes Bentley, is called in to investigate. Eventually, Lowe is established as the protagonist, and viewers

are able to explore more deeply into his family life and work on the police force.

After viewers learn more about Lowe, a series of twisted scenes including hemophilia victims, The Countess played by Lady Gaga, Donovan portrayed by Matt Bomer, and Tristan depicted by Finn Wittrock, give the viewers a wicked insight as to what else is to come with the series. The second half of the episode delves into the life stories of the hotel residents that have committed these horrific crimes, and shows what led to their staying at the hotel. With this season of *American Horror Story*, Wednesday evenings are the best primetime drama night of the week. A great cast, gripping plot, and spectacular effects verify why the series was nominated for Best Television Series by the Golden Globes.

Check in any time you like, at 10 p.m on Wednesdays. You won't want to check out.

ALBUMS DROPPED:

HIGH AND LOW EXPECTATIONS, REVERSED RESULTS

Max Fields '16, Circulation Manager

Mac Miller- *Good AM*:

You may know Mac Miller from some of his previous top singles like "Donald Trump" and "Party on Fifth Ave.," however, throughout the years, the Pittsburgh-based rapper has released albums and mixtapes that did not meet the expectations his previous singles set. Now after working two-and-a-half years on his major label debut album with Warner Brothers, *GO:OD AM* (Good Morning), he proves the doubters wrong.

GO:OD AM focuses on how Miller has recovered from past addictions with which he has struggled, and shares intimate moments with the listener that occurred during the time of his addiction. One of iTunes' editors who reviewed the album said that "*GO:OD AM* is like having a late-night conversation with the MC."

The album uses different types of instruments and tones that listeners would not hear on a regular rap album. But since Miller is known for his

composing skills, he makes each song blend in a unique way. Miller features artists such as Miguel, Ab-Soul, and Chief Keef, making the songs more catchy. Yet, the best thing about this album is that one cannot have a favorite song due to how well each tune works as a unit.

GO:OD AM has the qualities of a great album, and could possibly give Miller a Grammy nomination if he gets the recognition he deserves.

Drake and Future- *What a Time To Be Alive*:

These days it seems music is a war and artists are battling for the top of the charts. Everyone is an enemy, and the music industry turns into a battle that never ends. But sometimes, artists form alliances and work together, battling everyone who stands in their way. Two of the most successful rappers today, Drake and Future, decided to come together and release their joint album *What a Time to Be Alive* (*WATTBA*).

WATTBA is an 11-track album that covers rejection and failures which both artists have persevered through. This is the type of album that an artist will put out, near the end of their career. Usually fans receive these albums as not up to par or less memorable than most of their other work. Since Drake and Future are still young and climbing up the charts with each new single they release, listeners were somewhat disappointed with the final product.

This is not the first time Drake has worked with Future.

Drake has been featured in all of Future's previous albums, but his verses that were used, did not make much of an impact for any of the songs. These characteristics transfer into the mixtape, where it seems like Drake is a bystander. Listeners can notice this in the songs such as "Jumpman" and "Big Rings." Besides, Drake getting a short amount of time on the album, the mixtape was allegedly made in a six-day recording session, but to record an album in six days is not the best idea and that is shown in most of the songs. Most seem as if they were tossed together on the spot.

Both are good rappers, but *WATTBA* may not have been their best way to try to climb back on top. Although some of the songs do stand out, both should have just stuck to featuring each other in their own albums, rather than trying to take it to the next level.



What a Time to Be Alive album artwork.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user koala15 and OVO Sound



Tigers keep Ausmus, fans confused

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

After five years of cruising into the post-season, the 2015 season for the Detroit Tigers has been disastrous. Many Detroiters expected manager Brad Ausmus to be released due to lack of winning. Shockingly, General Manager Al Avila and owner Mike Ilitch decided to keep Ausmus on staff to continue coaching the struggling team.

The decision to keep Ausmus must have been a difficult one to make. Rather than holding the coach accountable for the team's losses and hire a veteran coach like Ron Gardenhire, who won the manager of the year award in 2010, Avila looked past the negatives toward the possibilities in the future. With one more year left on his three year contract, Ausmus will have a chance to turn the team around, yet fans are not too optimistic about his return. Critics of Ausmus believe he is too young and lacks the knowledge to coach a veteran contender like the Tigers. Most fans believe that his on-field decisions, lineup management, bullpen management, and moves on the bases were questionable. "Over and over again we saw the same mistakes. A pitcher was left in too long or was not thrown at all; with two outs he would

send Miguel Cabrera to steal second, or he would give a player the day off who did not need the rest," senior Joe Hunter said.

However, Ausmus is not the only one to blame for this lackluster season. The whole team was plagued by injuries all year. Key players like Justin Verlander, Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, Joe Nathan, Anibal Sanchez, and Jose Iglesias all missed a considerable portion of the season. The Tigers have the seventh youngest team in the MLB, and when a team is missing a few of their veterans, a coach has to rely on some unlikely players to get wins. "It was great to see players like third basemen Nick Castellanos and catcher Brian McCann start to play a larger role in the lineup, but without batters like Cabrera and Victor in the lineup, it is tough to score runs," Hunter said.

Though the decision is controversial, it has been made. The fans can only look to the future and hope that next season will not be quite as disastrous.

Lions fail to repeat success

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

The Lions carried lofty expectations into the 2015 season, because of their 11-5 record and wild card playoff berth last year. So far, things have been very different this year. After an 1-5 start, the majority of fans have given up on the playoffs and are looking towards the draft and next season.

It is widely believed by fans and analysts that the new coaching staff put into place last season was the reason the Lions were able to make their long awaited return to the playoffs. Returning with most of the same core players and coaches was supposed to translate to another playoff berth, and hopefully even a playoff win. Many have blamed the bad start on the "same old Lions" narrative, but the reason for the let down is really very simple.

Any football fan has heard experts say the phrase "everything starts up front" time and time again, in reference to the importance of physical line play. The Lions' choice to neglect this fundamental principle is a primary reason they have just one win this season. On the offensive side of the ball, the Lions lost two important veterans of last year's squad: guard Rob Sims and center Dominic Raiola. Replacing arguably the two most consistent and reliable players on the roster has affected the chemistry on the offensive line as well the offense as a whole. Junior football player David Gerth explained, "The offensive line has underachieved; I expected [the Lions] draft pick (Laken Tomlinson) to help." Tomlinson has not been particularly bad, but the line as a whole has had trouble adjusting to new personnel. As a result, the running game has been horrible and makes it hard for the offense to move the ball down the field.

On the other side, the defensive line also took a hit. They lost Ndamukong Suh, Nick Fairley, and C.J. Mosley, their top three defensive tackles all to free agency. Suh and Fairley are two of the best, and most physical defensive linemen in football, making them irreplaceable.

Even though the Lions returned with most of their starters from last year, they lost the players in the most important positions, and have therefore been unsuccessful. If they want to return to the playoffs, they will need to use more of their draft picks and salary cap space on linemen.



Center Dominic Raiola was a key part of the Lions for 14 years, but retired after the 2014 season.

Photo courtesy of Denverjeffrey



Coach Jim Caldwell and the Lions has had a rough time maintaining leads this year.

Photo courtesy of Bill Wippert

Berkley claws into contention

Maxwell Fields '16, Circulation Manager

After years of hard work and dedication, the boys' soccer team has officially become a contender for the state championship and according to MHSAA, Berkley is "the team to beat."

The Bears are 9-7-5 overall, one of the best records in Berkley boys' varsity soccer over the past few years. The team is in the Oakland-Red League, has a record of 2-5-4 in the league, and according to senior and varsity captain Zach Combs, Oakland-Red is "one of the toughest leagues in the state."

"It feels great," senior and varsity captain Zach Hobson said, "especially after facing some of the toughest teams in the state a couple of times a week and getting the results we need to be recognized."

Combs believes that the team is successful because "our hard work ethic that is put into our practices day in and day out, is what put us in this position." The soccer teams prides themselves in their effort: this year is different according to senior, goalie, and varsity captain Julian Fetterman.

"This team is really special. Not only because of the potential on this team, but because this team is like a second family" Fetterman continued, "we always pushe each other to do more and to be a part of a team that wants to exceed expectations."

The team is making tremendous strides and will not stop. All three captains agree that the team has a good chance in the playoffs, but want to focus on that once the time comes. Not only does Berkley want to feel like a contender in Michigan, but the boys want to bring home the biggest thing on the team's mind ever since the first practice: a championship.

When Givan the chance, he shines

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

Crossing the plane for six is something we, as Berkley Football fans, have seen many times this year from number thirteen. Star wide receiver and senior captain Nolan Givan is leading the Bears to a 5-2 record (5-1 in the league). On and off the field, Givan's senior year of high school has been packed with record games and college visits, while still managing to take hard classes and enjoy a social senior year.

On Oct. 9, Givan had the game of a lifetime. While improving the Bears to 4-1 after their inner league victory against Avondale, Givan recorded a career high five touchdowns and close to 300 total yards. "NG-13" chants from the erupting Bear Pack crowd really ignited the moment in Hurley Field for him. "It was definitely a great performance offensively for me. For the team, it was good to get a confidence boost as we push for the playoffs and try to win league," Givan said.

Givan joins Carlton Williams and Austen Wood as the three senior captains for the Bears. The three, having played together throughout their whole high school career, have developed great chemistry and leadership which allows them to play a big role on improving their already talent heavy team. All two-way starters (starting on offense and defense), each captain plays a different offensive position, and join together to create a dominant linebacker package.

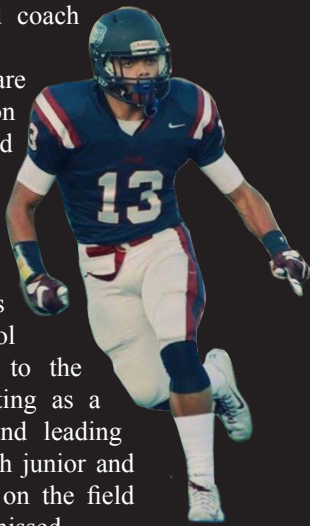
Measuring at 6'3, 220 pounds while running a 4.53 40 yard dash, Givan is being heavily recruited to play at the next level. Just midway through his senior season, Givan has received 13 offers to play college football. On July 2, Givan verbally committed to Fordham University in New York. Excited to be playing on Saturdays as a Ram, Givan said, "[Fordham] has a great team, it's a great academic school, and it's right in New York. I feel really comfortable with the coaches, and I think it's a great fit for me." Other offers included Princeton, Army

West Point, Temple and Illinois State.

Berkley's Homecoming game against long time league rival Royal Oak, was the most heavily attended home football game of the year. Looking for revenge after the loss during the 2013 season, and the absence of the rivalry game last season, the Bears took home a 34-21 victory. Down 21-20 in the fourth quarter, Givan scored a rushing touchdown to put them back on top. Finishing with two touchdowns, Givan was able to push through and help his team come out victorious.

His drive to succeed appears not just on the field but in the classroom as well. He challenges himself in many honors and AP classes, proving himself as an academic leader for his team. This allows him to set good examples for his teammates regarding things outside of just football. "He's a winner, whether it's on the field during a game or taking a test, he's going to come into it prepared. He's one of our most [academically inclined] players, which sets a great example for the other players," head coach Chris Sikora said.

Givan and the Bears are looking to finish the season off strong and earn a bid to the state playoffs and possibly a home playoff game. This upcoming offseason will require hard work for Givan as graduates from high school football and progresses to the next level of play. Starting as a sophomore on varsity and leading the team in receiving both junior and senior year, his absence on the field next year will be greatly missed.



Local soccer team strives for excellence

Miles Berlin '18, Sports Editor

Detroit is known as a sports city, the city has professional teams in all four major leagues'. Michigan has some of the best college sports teams, Michigan and Michigan State included. With all of that national attention, it can be hard for minor league teams to really make a name for themselves.

That has been the case for the Detroit FC, a soccer team that was founded in 2012. The team is not owned by a millionaire, but instead by five Detroit natives who created the team with one goal in mind: to unite the community and bring positive light and popularity to Detroit.

Le Rouge (a nickname for the team) plays in tournaments and showcases all over the state, and during their pre-season, they play against local colleges like Saginaw Valley State and Michigan State. In the club's first couple years, Detroit FC played at various high schools, including Cass Tech and Berkley's own Hurley field.

Recently, Detroit FC's plans to get an actual stadium were approved. They will soon be moving to KeyWorth stadium, which is in the middle of Hamtramck. The stadium is about to begin renovations that will allow it to fit the club's growing crowd, and eventually will be able to fit an estimated 6,000 people. The renovation is being funded by some small business loans, the owners, and there is a chance for fans and supporters to help donate as well.

The stadium is scheduled to be done in April 2016, just before the official season starts. The club picked Hamtramck because of its dense population and large number of bars and restaurants close to the stadium, which could in turn help local businesses. They also plan on hiring dozens of local food trucks to cater the game. Tickets and merchandise are at low prices, so that the games can be attended by all who wish to support their city.

2015-2016 NBA Season: Awards and Predictions

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

With the NBA season starting tonight, there is wide spread speculation as to what this season will entail in terms of elite players, dominant teams, and Cinderella stories. Senior and varsity basketball captain Travis Hicks noted, "This year has the potential to be a great NBA season." He added, "I am excited to see how everything unfolds." Every year, sports fans debate their own expectations regarding the upcoming season, including who will win awards and which teams will reach the championship, so here are the predictions for an NBA season whose birth is only nine short hours away.

Rookie of the Year: D'Angelo Russell

Do not be fooled by Russell's slow summer league start, he is the most skilled player out of his draft class and will be inserted right into the starting lineup for a Lakers' franchise that is in the early stages of rebuilding. Russell has the savviness, or craftiness, and court vision to compete with other elite guards and to be a focal point of the Lakers' offense. Also look for Stanley Johnson and Kelly Oubre Jr., dynamic, swing, one-and-done forwards, to make a big impact for the Detroit Pistons and Washington Wizards respectively.

NBA Champions: Cleveland Cavaliers

Since getting drafted first overall in the 2012 NBA draft, Anthony "the Brow" Davis has quickly risen to the top of the league as an elite player. Last season, Davis averaged about 24 points, 10 rebounds, and 3 blocks per game last season, all within the top ten in the league. He also exploded in the playoffs, recording 31 points, 11 rebounds, and 3 blocks per game during the New Orleans Pelicans' series with the future champion Golden State Warriors. Look for the Brow to carry the Pelicans further into the playoffs than ever before and to be a force at both ends of the court.

MVP: Anthony Davis

LeBron James is a man on a mission, and this year, he will not be stopped on his way to a third championship ring. With an all-star supporting cast that includes the likes of Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love, and hopefully, Tristan Thompson, the Cavs should dominate the Eastern Conference throughout the regular season. Once arriving to the playoffs, LeBron will be unstoppable, while attempting to carry Cleveland to their first ever NBA championship, thus ending the city of Cleveland's 52-year sports championship drought.

Love Yourz...or not

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

In his latest album, 2014 Forest Hills Drive, in a song entitled “Love Yourz”, J. Cole raps about the importance of loving your own life. With lines like, “What’s money without happiness and hard times without the people you love...” he expresses what is most likely viewed as a popular opinion that everyone should try their best to be the most content with their lives as possible. J. Cole is not the first to say this, and he most definitely will not be the last, but what people fail to see is that beyond the simple idea of finding happiness is the complication that comes with being content.

It is that we should never feel content with our lives. Obviously, I’m not saying that everyone should hate their lives and dwell on their problems. Everyone should love their lives enough to want to keep living them to the fullest. However, I believe everyone should always want more for themselves. We should always want better things, more money, more power, more happiness, or anything else that could possibly make our lives easier. This want for things that we are currently not able to obtain should create a passion within us to obtain them. This passion, which some might call ambition, is what enables people to do better for themselves instead of being content with something in which they are not truly happy.

Could you imagine school if everyone was content with failing? Of course, not everyone would fail, but what if those who did were just happy with the grades they were receiving and did nothing to try and raise them? They would not likely get into any reputable colleges, and would most likely not succeed in any other part of their life because they would be just as motivated as they were in high school. These people are contentfully hopeless. They do not have any hope in bettering their lives, so they give up hope and therefore do not succeed.

Success is driven by ambition, and ambition is created when someone is unhappy with the current situation and longs for something better. From simple things such as improving your grades to more major, life altering circumstances like annual income, the only thing standing in everyone’s way from obtaining the things they want is themselves and their attitude. If everyone had a common understanding that we should all want more for ourselves and in our lives in general, then society would and could be an extremely efficient and innovative place. A world without ambition is a world without progression.

There are also the people who take their situation for granted and therefore lack ambition. I am not referring to the Kardashian build-your-own-success type, but the people who are children and grandchildren of ancestors that made millions if not billions that just passed it down. These are the people that take everything for granted. Their family, money, material goods, opportunities—everything that makes them different from the *common* man—does not have to be appreciated. This is a different type of unambitious. Instead of being hopelessly content with their lives, they are happily content, which is just as dangerous. Because these people are so extremely happy and content with their current lifestyle, they make the conscious decision to not do anything with their lives. They might live off of their family’s money and do not think anything of it. These people could create so much change and innovation with the resources that are available to them, but have no drive to.

Ambition leading to success is not a new concept. For centuries, ambition has been a leading cause of many (if not all) revolutionary ideas of history. From revolutions to wars, people have seen something that they are unhappy with for an array of reasons, like inhumanity or even unfairness, and have taken extreme measures to try and fix what is wrong. Examples of this are easily found throughout history, and are commonly seen as triggers to wars and revolutionary movements.

Everyone should want everything for themselves. No one, rich or poor, should settle with being content with their lives, whether or not they can foresee near opportunities to make immediate change. We should all use our resources to fuel our natural ambitious qualities to create a better world for ourselves and everyone else involved.

Gerrymandering: Today’s biggest threat to the American democracy

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Has anyone ever wondered why so many young people choose not to vote, or why minorities seem to have such a little say in American politics? As a politically active young person, I have. In talking to my classmates, the number one response is that young people generally do not think that their vote matters. It is easy to understand why this would be a concern to potential new voters, especially when looking at Michigan. Everyone in Michigan knows that fixing the roads should be a top priority. Fixing our roads should not be too daunting of a task, yet our state government has made very little progress in the past decade. The lack of progress comes from an increased amount of gridlock in the political arena of Michigan’s state legislature. After digging a bit deeper, it is clear that the number one cause of this gridlock is gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering, as most of us learned during government class sophomore year, is a result of partisan redistricting. In a nutshell, the law allows for politicians to choose their voters rather than the other way around. Under Michigan law, politicians are able to redraw political districts every ten years. Predictably, the party in power at the time draws the lines in a way that will ensure their return to power in the future. In practical terms, what this means is that there are only a handful of real competitive elections across the state. Currently, it is estimated that out of 110 seats in the Michigan house, only about 12 to 15 are competitive, meaning that there are approximately even numbers of Democratic and Republican voters. As a result, the primaries decide who is elected in the remaining seats. Primaries have significantly lower participation rates than general elections, which tends to mean that only the most politically active (and extreme) turn out to vote. Obviously, those voters vote for candidates that represent their views, resulting in a political body often made up of extremely opposing sides rather than of members who can work together by forging compromise.

Gerrymandering does more than just cause gridlock, it hurts our democracy. Besides placing people of the same party affiliations in the same district, borders are often drawn based on ethnicity. Majority-minority districts are voting districts that are composed of mostly an ethnic minority. Politicians attempt to limit the voice of minorities by giving them less of a say by placing them all in one district. This forces victims of majority-minority districts to limit their say to fewer amounts of districts. This practice is dangerous to our American democracy because it purposefully and systematically discriminates against minorities, something that we as Americans cannot seem to let stay in the past.

This conflicting state of affairs, however, is not the way the political system needs to operate. Many states have changed their laws to create nonpartisan redistricting commissions, and this is a step that I would very much like Michigan to take. Under our state constitution, voters can implement laws through a process known as the citizen initiative. Recently, the well respected, nonpartisan League of Women Voters in Michigan has begun having discussions about the benefits of a nonpartisan redistricting commission which would effectively end the practice of gerrymandering in Michigan. I am encouraged that such a grassroots movement has already taken shape right now, and I hope to be a part of it. Discussions concerning the flaws in our current system and changes that can be made are happening every day in communities across the state. If supporters of bipartisan redistributing can create enough momentum around this issue, a ballot proposal could appear before Michigan voters as soon as the next presidential election cycle. Interestingly, this would be my first election eligible to vote. I am hopeful that the movement to end gerrymandering in Michigan will gain momentum to decrease the gridlock which, in turn, will encourage young voters to take an active role in guiding change in the political system, and will allow minorities to have the louder voice that they deserve.

Higher drinking age proves ineffective

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

The minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) in the United States is 21 years old, which is higher than almost all other countries in the world. One would assume that this means that the United States is a leader in alcohol safety, but it is actually the complete opposite, especially when it comes to underage drinking. The original goal of the increased MLDA was to decrease the amount of alcohol related fatalities, specifically traffic related ones, but it has not generated the outcome that it was intended to produce. Furthermore, underage binge drinking remains a prominent issue. The MLDA being raised to 21 has ultimately proven to be ineffective, even leading to binge drinking, injuries, and vast amounts of wasted tax dollars.

Philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The lawmakers must not have had this in mind when they raised the MLDA in 1984, forgetting the disastrous results of prohibition. Instead of complying to the law, people found ways to get around it and created an entire culture dedicated to evading punishment through bootlegging and speakeasies. The exact same thing happened with teens, especially college students, after this law was put into place. Police Chief of Boulder, Colorado, a college town, expresses the fact that their enforcement of the law has proven ineffective as college students will just continue to do it anyway.

Since this law has been passed, it has not had an effect on limiting the binge drinking and alcohol related hospitalization rates in the country. According to the New York Times, 40 percent of college students admitted to binge drinking, so one can infer the number is probably even higher. They also express the fact that 1,800 people have died and 600,000 have been injured from alcohol related instances, and 100,000 are victims of drinking related sexual assault. In colleges and even high schools, a culture of binge drinking has become the norm, as young people have no regard for this law. In 1995, the American Journal of Public Health found that the "legal drinking age fails to predict binge drinking, raising questions about the effectiveness of the legal minimum drinking age of 21 in college alcohol policies."

There are a few possible ways that this increased MLDA has lead to these unfortunate spikes in underage drinking and injuries. Teens in the U.S. grow up in a culture where drinking is discouraged and rarely talked about to the extent that it should. As a result, kids are unable to learn how to safely manage alcohol or how to consume it responsibly. Society and parents are not educating the youth properly, and when kids enter high school and college, where drinking is present, their ignorance can lead to some pretty serious consequences.

Another outcome of the MLDA is the environment in which young adults are drinking. Since it is illegal, underage teens can find themselves in unsafe situations just to avoid being caught. This could mean anything from being in a secretive location to avoiding contacting medical professionals for help if something is to go wrong while drinking. Former Middlebury College President John

McCardell said that the MDLA "hasn't reduced or eliminated drinking. It has simply driven it underground, behind closed doors, into the most risky and least manageable of settings."

The intentions of this law were good, but the results are not. One main issue that lawmakers hoped to improve was highway accidents. However, Temple University Psychology Professor Laurence Steinberg said, "If highway safety really is the main concern, we'd accomplish much more by raising the driving age. Moreover, countries that use 18 for both the drinking and driving age generally have safer highways than the United States." There has been a disregard for the facts from the people who passed this law. While it seems like reducing the access to alcohol would improve safety in theory, history, and now the present, has indicated that this just is not the case.

When it comes to a 21-year-old MLDA, huge issues arise on college campuses. College is a place where drinking has become a normal aspect of campus life, and 18- to 20-year-olds are prone to take part in it. Even though thousands of students are regularly breaking the law, there is a complete lack of enforcement, begging the question of whether having its existence is necessary. Administrators and law enforcement officials must use many resources such as money and manpower in order to police and prosecute the illegal activity that occurs. Students who are being social with their friends at 20 years old are then subjected to adult criminal charges and fines that can have lasting negative effects on their future.

It may just be me, but thinking of a 20-year-old being charged with an MIP seems confusing, especially in comparison to minimum legal ages that the U.S. already has in place. For instance, the age a person can be when deciding to enroll in the army is 18 years old. The United States has deemed an 18-year-old responsible enough to make the decision to put their lives at risk for their country. A person is also guaranteed to be charged as an adult, should they be convicted of a crime, if they are 18 years old. This country believes they had enough experience and knowledge to be aware of their decisions and be charged as such. If we are considered adults at 18, trusted to make these choices responsibly, it does not make much sense why the MLDA is then three years higher. If we are old enough to die for our country or be sentenced as an adult, than we should also be able to have an alcoholic beverage with dinner.

There are just not enough reasons to keep the MLDA at 21. There is evidence that this has not had any positive results related to binge drinking and injuries, and has cost money as this country continually enforces a seemingly obsolete law. Even college presidents believe that this law has not been effective, and something needs to be done. Over 100 college presidents from places like Dartmouth and Duke have signed a declaration of this fact sparking a national debate about the issue that affects millions of young people throughout the nation. Lawmakers need to look at the facts in order to make a rational and progressive decision.

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