

# THE SPECTATOR

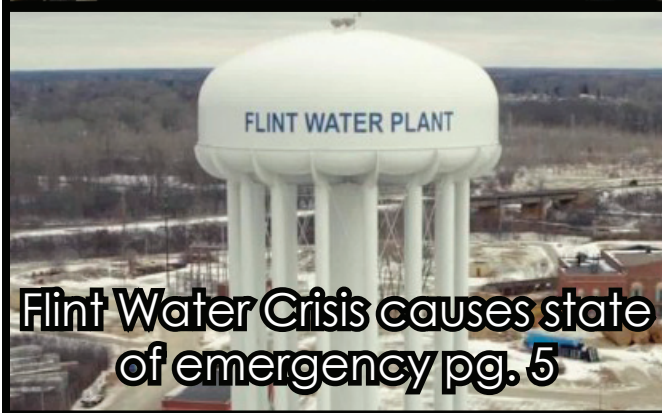
February 2016

## LET'S SNOOOOOOW...



Berkley High School • 2325 Catalpa

Volume LXX • Issue 5



Flint Water Crisis causes state of emergency pg. 5



Students raise money for a veteran pg. 7



Hometown prodigy Dylan Larkin starts strong pg. 18



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Not good, not bad, just meh.

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- 1 . Jeb! Bush
- 2 . PacSun
- 3 . Poodles
- 4 . Pandora
- 5 . South Dakota



Inspired by the New York Time's "The Meh List"

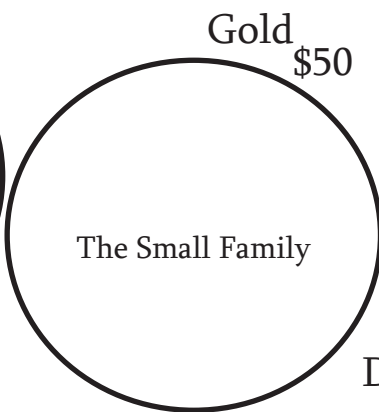


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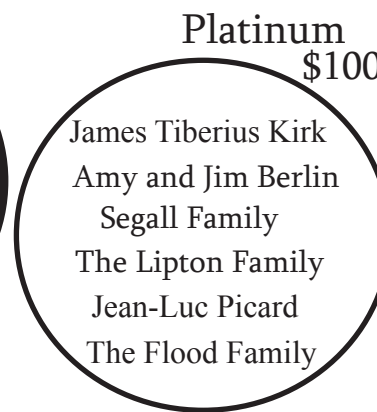
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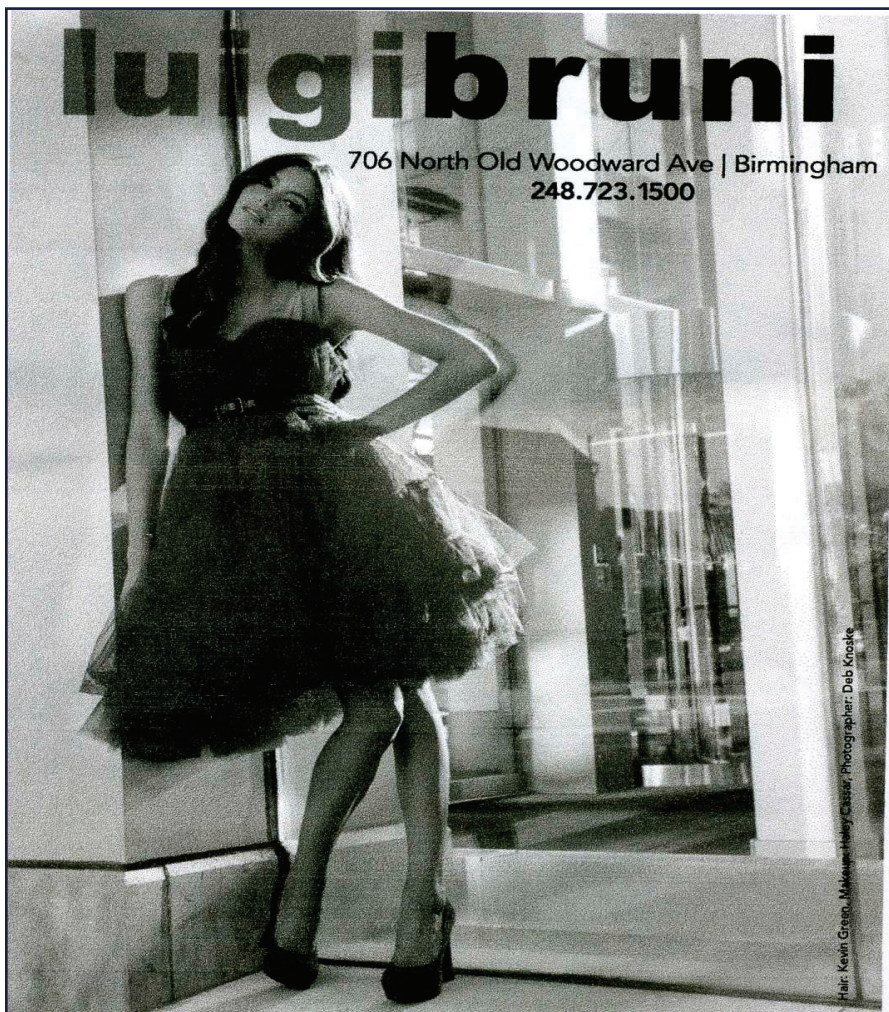
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# Flint faces contamination: thousands left without clean water

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

On Jan. 5, Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency in Flint due to the recent news of a contaminated water supply. Flint, Michigan is home to one hundred thousand people, all of whom are currently left without the ability to use running water. Since the recent transition of water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River, the city's drinking water has had numerous problems regarding an unsafe amount of lead in the water supply, creating a dangerous environment for the residents of Flint.

Lead trapped in pipes leached into the Flint River, leaving about 12,000 homes without clean drinking water. Lead is a highly powerful neurotoxin that can result in serious health risks such as brain damage, behavioral issues, and learning disabilities.

In 2011, the state appointed an emergency manager to save money, and one way to cut costs was to find a cheaper water supply. Plans were then made to find a cheaper route and still utilize the Lake Huron water supply, but those details would not be finalized until 2016. "I think this whole crisis would be a lot different and possibly have never existed if the plans did not take so long to finalize," junior Dana McDowell said.

Nonetheless, in 2014, the city switched to the Flint River as their main source of water until the new plan had been set. As residents had issues with the new water supply over the years, complaining that it smelled bad or tasted odd, it was clear that there was a severe issue at hand. However, officials assured the citizens that the water was indeed safe to drink.

About a year ago, the problem was still present and more signs pointed towards a contaminated water supply. E. coli was found in the river along with a study showing children living in the Flint area had doubled percentages of lead in their body since the switch to the new source of water. In October 2015, the problem was acknowledged, and Flint is currently deeply in need of a safe source of usable water.

As Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency in Flint last week due to the contamination, many residents still believe the problem lies with the governor, who failed

to act upon the situation when it first occurred, years back. "There are definitely a lot of things that the governor could have done differently," McDowell said. Snyder is currently attempting to fix the issue and released a statement in a press conference on Jan. 19, taking much of the blame. "To you, the people of Flint, I say tonight as I have before: I am sorry, and I will fix it," Governor Snyder said. Since then, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency have currently been investigating the state's response to the water crisis.

Thousands of people are coming together to help the city out by donating water bottles and making sure all the residents are safe. Social workers are also currently going door-to-door to ensure that homes have correctly installed water filters and individuals are getting the care they need. It is uncertain when the crisis will be resolved, but the city of Flint is in the midst of one of the most tragic situations they have ever encountered.



Governor Snyder declares his state of emergency at a press conference on Jan. 5.



People gather to help donate water bottles to those who are left without clean water.

Photos courtesy of Al Goldis and AP

## Kalamazoo shooting claims the lives of six

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, Feb. 20, a Michigan resident and Uber driver was deemed responsible for the shootings in Kalamazoo, MI. Jason Brian Dalton stands accused of the crimes and was detained by police on Monday, Feb. 22.

Police say that Dalton traveled to three different locations and shot eight different victims. Starting at an apartment complex where he shot a woman, who is expected to live, in front of her children. He then continued to kill a father and son at a car dealership and finished his killing spree by opening fire and killing four women and wounding a 14-year-old girl in a Cracker Barrel parking lot. Police also report that he was actively driving Uber passengers in-between shootings.

Kalamazoo College notified all of their students with a 'K-alert,' which included a phone call explaining the crisis. Kalamazoo freshman and BHS graduate Adam Edery said, "We all got the K-alert saying there was a shooter so everyone was kind of scared and stayed in." He continued, "[The next day] things were a bit tense, but I think the community has rallied pretty well and is trying to maintain a positive energy overall."

Western Michigan University, on the other hand, while not being legally required to notify their students of the situation failed to do so, resulting in recent controversy.

Authorities are unsure why the victims were chosen and if there was any connection between them and the killer. As of now Dalton is being charged with six counts of murder, two counts of assault with intent to commit murder, and eight firearms violations, and was denied bail.

## CDC warns travelers to stay safe from the Zika virus

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

In January 2016, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, issued travel warnings for any country currently affected by the Zika virus. The usual symptoms of the virus include headaches, fever, and a rash, lasting only a few days. However, it has been found to be more dangerous than previously believed, as the virus has also been linked to be the cause of a serious birth defect.

In pregnant women, the Zika virus infects the unborn child, causing them to develop microcephaly. Children with this birth defect have a head with a circumference much smaller than that of an average newborn. The reduced head size can cause many developmental issues. Mr. Michael Skowronski, anatomy teacher at BHS, said, "The disease leads to severe cognitive impairment. It essentially alters how they think and act."

As of Feb. 22, the CDC reports 82 travel-related Zika virus cases across 23 states and Puerto Rico.

One of the biggest concerns at this time is

with the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics which will be held in Brazil, an area that the CDC warns people against travelling to. According to Brazil's Ministry of Health, there have been over 4,000 cases of microcephaly related to the Zika virus since October 2015. Federations and athletes alike are considering skipping the event if they do not feel safe travelling.

As of now, there are no vaccines to protect people against the Zika virus. With no vaccine to be available soon, the only way to prevent the spread of the disease is through caution. Skowronski is content with how the CDC has treated the situation so far. He said, "The response has been good. It has been making people aware, and awareness is the most important thing."

One Indian company, Bharat Biotech, has already been researching a Zika vaccine since December 2014. They were the first to file patents and a brand name for a vaccine, despite being years away from completing it.



## 6 THE SPECTATOR

## Students scope out study spots

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Ahh, the start of a new semester. It is almost like New Years all over again. Students tell themselves that they'll stay on top of things for the whole semester, knowing deep down, within the next week or so, they will find themselves awake at three o'clock in the morning, just starting their essay that's due in first hour. But fear not, I have decided to compile a list of productive and cool spaces to study your little heart out which should help keep you somewhat on top of things.



## The Berkley Public Library

**City:** Berkley

**Crossroads:** Beverly and Coolidge

**Hours (on school nights):** 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Description:** The library is a spacious spot with the availability of computers. It is great for studying with a group or alone. Aside from studying, there are also some comfy chairs by the fireplace to curl up and read a nice book—or one you have to read for English.

**Quote:** “I love coming the library to study. Unlike a coffee shop or tea place, [which usually plays music or is full of chatter], I can actually get stuff done,” junior Lauren Murray said.



## Atomic Coffee

**City:** Royal Oak

**Crossroads:** Fourth and Main

**Hours (on school nights):** 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

**Description:** Atomic is a unique and modern coffee shop. It is great for studying alone because there are a lot of one person tables.

**Quote:** “I love coming to Atomic to study. Their chairs are so comfy, and their coffee is even better,” junior Casey Halas said.



## The Office Coffee Shop

**City:** Royal Oak

**Crossroads:** Fourth and Lafayette

**Hours (on school nights):** 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Description:** The Office is a cozy and friendly environment. It is great for studying in a group as there are a bunch of big tables. Also, it is really cool that five percent of your order goes to a charity of your choosing.

**Quote:** “[The Office] is a serene environment where I can come to do homework or study. The baristas are so nice here. It’s nice to find a place that cares so much about its customers and the world around it,” junior Nolan Tollefson said.



# Berkley community raises money for triple amputee veteran

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

Helping others in need is a value instilled within most children from an early age. When it comes to veterans in particular, many people want to give back for all the service they provide our country. In November, the U.S. History classes host a Military Appreciation Day each year while the country as a whole celebrates our heroes' work on Veterans' Day. When Army Veteran Sergeant (SSG) Ben Eberle returned from his tour without three of his limbs, students from Anderson Middle School and Pattengill Elementary School stepped up to help Eberle and his family.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, SSG Eberle, accompanied by his wife and daughter, was thanked by students, staff, and community members as they made their way down the halls of Anderson Middle School to an assembly held in their honor. Students lined the halls and waved American flags eagerly. The BHS drumline gave a roaring performance, and the choir sang in his honor. "Getting the chance to be at such an event was amazing. The look on Eberle's face was unforgettable. The ceremony was so emotional and moving; it was hard to sing," A Capella member and junior Myah Kube said.

Working with GMC and the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping service members who sacrifice limbs, students raised money for the building of a new 'smart' home for the Eberle family. The club Destination

Imagination successfully raised \$3,000 for the new home that will be built in Alpena, Michigan.

Eberle was injured in Afghanistan in 2011 when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated, and he lost both his legs and his right hand. "The majority of cities have small houses that will not accommodate wheelchairs, doorways, and a larger bathroom and tub to put a shower bench in, things like that," Eberle said after the assembly to the Macomb Tribune. The new home will be equipped with state of the art technology that will allow the wounded vet to safely move around the house. Without the money raised, the house may not have been possible. "I'm never going to forget this for the rest of my life; I really won't—it's something else," Eberle said.

The students in Destination Imagination have left a legacy that will hopefully inspire future projects to be accomplished with equal success. "I think it is very easy sometimes to lose focus and take for granted the freedoms and protection that we have living in the United States of America," Anderson Principal Mr. Michael Ross said. "It is because of people like SSG Ben Eberle that afford us these opportunities," he continued. Thanks to the students at his school and help from others, SSG Eberle will be repaid for his service and gain freedom of mobility within his home once again.



Photo courtesy of Detroit Free Press writer Jessica J. Trevino

## The legacy of the Challenger disaster

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Few causes are more noble than the expansion of humankind's understanding of the world around them. To give one's life in the pursuit of knowledge is to know that the life was not given in vain. Over 30 years ago, at 11:39 a.m. on Jan. 28, 1986, seven brave men and women died when the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded just 73 seconds after launch. The cause was determined to be a broken seal on a fuel tank, cracked by the abnormally low temperatures in Cape Canaveral that day.

The initial and lasting impacts of the disaster are massive and far-reaching, so much so that they are still felt today. "[The Challenger disaster] was the first disaster that led to the end of the shuttle program," Ms. Catherine Jasionowicz (better known as CJ), the astronomy teacher at the Center for Advanced Studies and Arts (CASA), said. "Presidents began to see more problems than benefits [to sending] people into space. The risks outweigh the rewards." The Challenger disaster was the first nail in the coffin for the already underfunded shuttle program. Then, 17 years later, on Feb. 1, 2003, the Columbia space shuttle disintegrated upon reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven people on board. The shuttle program officially ended in 2011, and space exploration has further fallen out of the public's interest ever since.

The Challenger was to be the first shuttle mission to carry an ordinary citizen into space. President Ronald Reagan wished to put a regular civilian onboard to reignite the public's interest in space travel, which had been dwindling since the Apollo program (which that sent people to the moon) ended. Christa McAuliffe, a high school science teacher, was

selected to travel with the crew into space, and while there, she would broadcast zero-gravity experiments to students around the nation. Her students, along with the rest of the nation, were watching when the Challenger shuttle exploded.

The impacts of the disaster were not wholly negative. Jasionowicz went on to say that 10 of McAuliffe's students became teachers to honor her. The nation did become more interested and invested in scientific advance—for a time. It is important to never forget

the sacrifices made by the seven individuals who gave their lives for the advancement of humankind. Along with McAuliffe in the shuttle were Gregory Jarvis, Judith A. Resnik, Francis R. Scobee, Ronald E. McNair, Mike J. Smith, and Ellison S. Onizuka.

Exactly 390 years before the Challenger disaster, another explorer, Sir Francis Drake, died off the coast of Panama. In his speech honoring the crew of the Challenger, President Reagan said, "In [Drake's] lifetime the great frontiers were the oceans, and an historian later

said, 'He lived by the sea, died on it, and was buried in it.' Well, today we can say of the Challenger crew: their dedication was, like Drake's, complete."

Never forget the sacrifices made in the name of knowledge. It is the highest price to pay, and those who pay it, often pay it readily. To again quote President Reagan's national address, "The crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and slipped the surly bonds of the Earth to touch the face of God."

*"The crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and slipped the surly bonds of the Earth to touch the face of God." - President Ronald Reagan, 1986*



## 8 THE SPECTATOR

# Still controversial to have a black quarterback: And yes, it's 2016

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

This past Super Bowl had several intriguing storylines, which included Broncos' quarterback Peyton Manning's final game before retirement, the major upset of the Broncos victory over the Panthers, and the fantastic season of MVP Cam Newton coming to a tragic end. But, more importantly, the most controversial topic going into the Super Bowl was Cam Newton's on-field antics.

Newton, the quarterback of the Panthers, is known for emphatic touchdown celebrations. He made "The Dab" popular, as well as "The Superman," when he would pretend to rip his jersey open to reveal a fictitious Superman "S" underneath. The majority of people loved Newton's celebrations and enthusiasm for the game, but others were not as approving. It was sometimes thought of as "immature" or "childish" to act the way Newton has on the field, but there is possibly another factor leading those fans to come to that conclusion.

On Jan. 28, just over a week before the Super Bowl, Newton said in an interview, "I'm an African American quarterback; that scares people." And this theory toward his criticism definitely holds some water. In a poll conducted by ESPN's Darren Rovell, 81 percent of black fans voted that they like Newton's celebrations, compared to just 51 percent of white fans. Additionally, going into the Super Bowl, it seemed as if all any journalist could think to ask Newton was regarding his race and his celebrations, and there were rarely any questions about his spectacular season on the field.

What also went under the radar for a while but is now being brought to attention is the fact that after every touchdown celebration, Newton would give the ball to a young fan sitting behind the endzone, which sparked a great new tradition in Carolina. Now in every city, young Panthers fans line the end zone wall after every Newton touchdown, waiting for the memory of a lifetime which could be provided by the star quarterback.

The most bothersome thing about the criticism of Newton's celebrations is that the most elite quarterbacks in the league do emphatic celebrations as well, but somehow they do not get the heat for it that Newton does, simply because they are the stereotypical white quarterback. For example, the "Golden Boy" of the NFL, Tom Brady, spikes the football, screaming and headbutting teammates after he scores, and Drew Brees yells and dances every pregame with his New Orleans Saints' teammates, and occasionally lays the ball up

through the goalposts as a celebration. More notably, Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers has his "Discount Double Check" celebration, in which he pretends to wrap a title belt around his waist, and that is currently featured in State Farm commercials, giving Rodgers a huge endorsement deal.

Perhaps the average white quarterback is able to get away with these on-field antics because there are so many of them—out of the 32 NFL teams, just six have an African American starting quarterback. This makes it almost impossible for them to stand out for their performance and not their skin color in comparison to other players who hold their position; this leads to unfair criticism that can easily apply to the majority of starting quarterbacks, including those amongst the most popular of all time like Brady or Rodgers.

So, if Peyton Manning were to steal Newton's "Dab," or Brady pretended to be Superman, would anyone really care? But if Newton were to headbutt his teammates or dunk on the goalposts, it would make headline news as to how he "isn't mature enough to be a quarterback." Senior Emma Harbert said, "I just think [Newton] would not receive the same amount of criticism he does if he were white."

In 1988, Washington Redskins' quarterback Doug Williams became the first African American quarterback to play in, and win, the Super Bowl. Since Williams, there have been several African American quarterbacks to play in the Super Bowl, recently including Colin Kaepernick and Russell Wilson. Yet, because of Newton's emphatic and joyful style of play, he is more heavily criticized because of the color of his skin, which was an issue seemingly defeated by Williams in 1988, but has somehow, embarrassingly, resurfaced all the way in 2016.

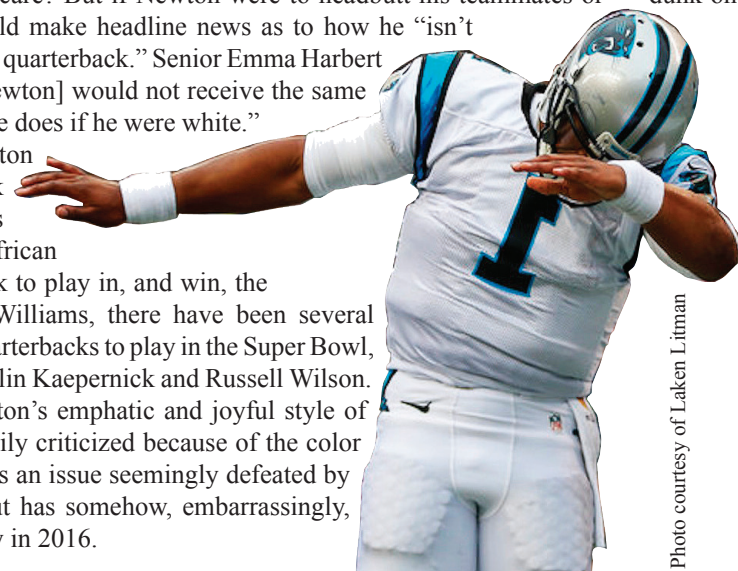


Photo courtesy of Laken Litman

## Possible discrimination in the film industry results in zero black Oscar nominations

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

Movies like *Creed*, *Straight Outta Compton*, and *Beasts of No Nation* entered the Oscar nomination conversation as prime candidates for an Academy Award to be won by black actors or actresses. However, on Jan. 14, when the nominations were released, the Academy failed to nominate any black actors or actresses to any of the 20 slots in the four acting categories. The award show, held on Feb. 28, will not have any black actors or actresses nominated for the second year in a row.

Social media users were outraged this time last year, creating the trending hashtag "#OscarSoWhite," referring to the lack of minority nominations. This year, the subject has picked back up and has been elevated to a new level. Actor Will Smith and his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, along with Director Spike Lee, are boycotting the Oscars and will not attend the show. The frustration felt by all people, especially black actors and actresses, is understood. In reality, the movie industry is dominated by Caucasian males and has been since film's conception.

The ethnicity breakdown for the 88th Academy Awards nominations in major categories which include Acting, Writing, and Directing, left white people with 95.3 percent of the nominees (41), leaving Asian and Hispanic/Latinos at only 2.1 percent (one percent each), and African Americans with none.

With the exception of Sidney Poitier, who in 1963 was the first African American to win a Best Actor in a Leading Role award, the next black actor or actress to win the award came 38 years later in 2001 when Halle Berry and Denzel Washington both won the award in their respective genders. In 90 years of the ceremony's existence, just four black males and one black female have won the award for the Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Senior Lauren Angel said, "The board that makes the nominations is mostly white, so they will vote for the movies that attract to them. Black movies mainly attract black audiences. Not many white people go and see the black movies."

*Straight Outta Compton*, a movie describing the rise of rap group N.W.A, starred four young, black actors. This exceptional film, which grossed over 200 million dollars worldwide, received only one nominee for "Best Original Screenplay." The sole nomination will be credited to Jonathan Herman, a self-described "white, Jewish, gay guy from Connecticut" and his white writing partner, Andrea Berloff.

Other award ceremonies, including the Screen Actors Guild Awards, have given credit where credit is due. Both *Straight Outta Compton* and *Beasts of No Nation* received nominations for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture, along with Idris Elba in his supporting role in *Beasts of No Nation*.

This "whiteout" trend cannot be by chance or simply a glitch in the system, it is a clear, racially driven problem. A survey held in 2013 by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), an American union for film performers, suggests that 70 percent of its members are white. If all of the Guild's members were equally likely to receive Oscar nominations, regardless of race, then over a two-year period, 28 out of 40 nominations would be of white actors. The chances of no black actor or actress being nominated in two consecutive ceremonies comes to around one in 100,000. Angel continued, "It is definitely a racial issue, and it has been going on for a long time."

The Academy has noticeably attempted to change regarding their accused racial discrimination in the industry. They have announced that by 2020, the female and minority membership within the business will double.



# The curious case of Julian Assange

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

The value that society assigns to absolute moral purity is arbitrary and unnecessary. The fact that Martin Luther King Jr. was adulterous or that Nelson Mandela sanctioned the car-bombing of a South African church in 1983 does not make them bad people or reflect poorly on their larger achievements. They are good people who made mistakes in their lives. Therefore, the opposite should also be true—when bad people do great things, their achievements should not be invalidated. This is very much the case with Julian Assange.

Julian Assange is the founder of Wikileaks, a website that provides a secure forum where whistleblowers can leak documents that reveal the illegal activities of a government, corporation, or other such institution. The most important information revealed on Wikileaks includes documents on the corruption of the former Kenyan president and video of American soldiers shooting unarmed journalists in Baghdad, leaked by Chelsea Manning, who is now serving 35 years in prison for disclosing government documents. Assange currently has political asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he has been since 2012. He is avoiding extradition (where a government hands an individual over to whichever jurisdiction the crime he or she stands accused of was committed in) to Sweden, where he was accused of rape and molestation, which would likely then result in extradition to the United States, where a fate similar to Manning would await him. In January, the United Nations ruled that he is being arbitrarily detained by Britain and Sweden, effectively granting Assange the support of the UN.

Assange is not a good person. He often leaks documents with reckless abandon, simply because the producer of the information is in a position of power; a notable example of this is the publishing of former CIA Chief John O'Bannon's entire personal email. In an op-ed for the New York Times, journalist Jochen Bittner said of cases like these that "the underlying scandal, it would seem to Mr. Assange, is that these are evil people who must be exposed. Don't trust anyone, everybody who keeps secrets is bad, regardless of the reasons they keep them."

Some secrets should be kept. It is damaging to the reputation of Wikileaks to randomly leak irrelevant documents like these, and it diminishes the impact of uncovering real corruption or criminal activity.

Speaking on the accusations set against Assange, if it turns out that he did rape the woman who accused him (which he fervently denies) and goes to prison for it, excellent. He doesn't deserve to live free if that is the case. But what is not acceptable is the notion that Assange could be put in prison for the rest of his life or a majority of his life for assisting in the uncovering of government corruption.

On certain matters, especially ones like NSA mass surveillance, change and accountability is not coming from within the system. The general public would never have found out about NSA surveillance if not for Edward Snowden, who leaked information on it in 2013. It is unconscionable that Manning is serving 35 years in prison for leaking information on war crimes, especially considering the soldiers who slaughtered the journalists never saw punishment. These are people who need protection because they are the watchdogs of freedom—Julian Assange included.

The person himself and the actions of the person can be separated. Assange has done and said some awful things, but what he created is an incredible advantage in the protection and promotion of democracy. If he is to go to prison, let it be for a legitimate reason and not as just an attempt by the world's governments to silence him and those like him.



Photo courtesy of Ashwin Subramania

Wikileaks author Julian Assange and the Wikileaks logo.



# Women fight against feminism

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Recently, the feminist movement has been revamped, advocating for more workplace equality and fighting to keep Planned Parenthood funded. However, acting in opposition to the feminists are the anti-feminists, whose voices must be heard.

I met with eminent anti-feminist, Anna Fender. When asked about the topic of feminism, Fender said, "I've just never felt comfortable making my own decisions." She continued, "I would most definitely rather have my husband decide how I should live my life."

Fender continued to show me her "Women Against Feminism" Twitter page, where she, and a few other anti-feminists, tweeted pro-patriarchal puns followed by a lot of GOPTeens retweets. "Twitter is a great way to reach out to potential anti-feminists. Our account has 364 followers! Although raging feminists often cyberbully us, we put our feelings aside in order to showcase our message: that men are better than women," Fender said.

Aside from Twitter, Fender and her followers have also created a petition to recall the 14th amendment, which protects the rights of not only women, but every citizen within America. "Even though recalling [the 14th amendment] will take away a few rights from men, ensuring that women are unequal is our first priority," Fender said. I spoke to Fender's husband, Don Fender, who said, "I don't know what has been wrong with Anna lately. She used to enjoy making her own decisions until she started to follow Ted Cruz's campaign. On date night last week she screamed at me for not picking out her food for her." He added, "Being in charge is so time consuming and hard."

As time continues and the feminist movement grows, the anti-feminist movement faces a tough uphill to battle to maintain inequality.



# SNOWCOMING DANCE 2016

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

Once again, Student Leadership put on a dance that was “snow” disappointment. From the decorations, the music, and the photobooth, Snowcoming could not have gone any smoother, or have been any better.

One of the most unique aspects of the dance was the beach balls that lit up the room as students hit them in the air to one another. Not only were the beach balls very aesthetically pleasing, but they were a very good form of entertainment for those students who did not want to dance. Throughout the whole Collaborative Center, one could see the balls continuously up in the air as students of all ages enjoyed this new addition to a school dance. Freshman Evan Krasnick said, “I thought [the beach balls] were a really cool idea, and it was cool to see them lighting up the rest of the room.”

The sparkly ribbons against the windows and the balloons were also fabulous decorations. They were very pretty to look at, helping to transform the daily Collaborative Center to a winter wonderland. Many pictures were taken near both sets of decorations, so they helped to remember the night forever.

Also to help capture the night, there was a photo booth for the second year in a row. It was a very big hit. People loved posting the picture of a picture on Instagram to show what an amazing night they had with their friends. Krasnick said, “I know a lot of people used it and enjoyed it.”

While homecoming was still very fun, Student Leadership somehow stepped up their game because people seemed to enjoy Snowcoming even more than they enjoyed Homecoming. While it was a bit upsetting that the tickets sold out quickly, this resulted in a less crowded and less sweaty dance. Krasnick stated, “I enjoyed it more than Homecoming because it was not as hot.”

Snowcoming is definitely one of the highlights of the school year, all because of the massive amount of effort Student Leadership puts forth, and this year is no exception. There is snow way it could have been any better.



# PEP ASSEMBLY

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

The atmosphere of the entire student body in the West Gym was through the roof as students and teachers alike anxiously waited for the Snowcoming Pep Assembly. After a week of fun spirit days, the crowd wore the brightest white they had for a “snow” effect. The Pep Assembly was loud, energetic, and a great way to get everyone hyped up for the upcoming weekend.

Seniors Nolan Givan and Gwen Wibbelman were entertaining emcees. The duo got everyone excited and pumped at the assembly including many humorous snow puns in their speeches, and of course, having fun dancing and singing at the same time. “I loved being able to talk to the whole student body at once,” Wibbelman said. “I just love spirit in general!” The rally started with an incredible performance by the band as everyone sang the BHS fight song with pride. This was followed by the national anthem, and senior Ryan Schilderout played it beautifully on his saxophone.

After the National Anthem, Encore! performed, and got the crowd excited with a rendition “Uptown Funk” by Bruno Mars. After the Encore! performance came the annual guy-girl dance performed by the dance team and their chosen boy counterparts.

The guy-girl dance, bringing back nostalgic memories, was a mix of old *High School*

*Musical* songs. “I think the guy-girl dance went great and I was very happy with the outcome after all the time and effort everyone put into it,” sophomore and dancer Matthew Austin said. After the dance team performed, the step team definitely stepped up their performance.

Then, the Snowcoming King, senior Anthony Cobb, and Queen, senior Abbie Baker, were announced. After a short break with a game of tug-of-war, the lip sync battle from last semester commenced. Senior Vinnie Teneglia, dressed in a quintessential school girl outfit, hilariously sang, “Hit Me Baby One More Time,” by the pop singer Britney Spears. His competitors? The teachers! To everyone’s surprise, Ms. Emily Mullins, Ms. Chelsea Lupenec, Mrs. Elizabeth Meinhart, Mrs. Megan Blackwell, Ms. Christina Cannon, Mrs. Catherine Vivian, and Mr. Victor Barnes dressed up like NSYNC and sang their famous song “Bye Bye Bye.” “By far, my favorite part was when the teachers lip synced,” sophomore Robbie Gibson said.

Everyone had a great time at the pep assembly as it was entertaining and funny. “Overall, I think it got everyone excited for a great Snowcoming!” Austin said. With the assembly, everyone was “snow” ready for the upcoming dance.



# THERE WAS NOTHING SNOWING ON: THE SNOWCOMING AFTER PARTY, OR LACK THEREOF

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 6, Student Leadership (as usual) produced an impressive Snowcoming dance in the Collaborative Center. Much like past years, most students entered the night excited to “snow” to the dance and had high hopes of continuing the night after with friends. However, the night took an annoying turn when the dance ended and there were no plans made.

Instead of the normal get-togethers or parties that occur after events like Snowcoming, there was absolutely nothing to do. “It was so annoying,” senior Celia Somers commented. “I ended up just hanging out with a couple of friends, then getting food, which was fun; it just was not the night I had expected or ideally planned for.”

It seems that the majority of students headed to a typical late night restaurant such as Comet Burger or Leo’s after the dance, and then back to one of their friend’s houses to do nothing. Sophomore Ella Lipman said, “We went back to one of my girlfriends house and sat around and talked for a while.” She continued, “At one point we finally left to go to Sonic but ended up coming back right after and just going to bed. Snowcoming was fun, but afterwards was as uneventful as it gets.”

Unfortunately for most students, the fun of the night ended when the DJ played the last song at the dance, and hopefully the student community can redeem themselves with fun plans for after Spring Fling.

# SPIRIT WEEK

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

## Pajama Day:

There is no better way to kick off spirit week than with the classic Monday theme of Pajama Day. “I love wearing my ‘jamas! Who doesn’t want to be comfy and cozy at school?” junior Olivia Nave said. Students in every grade came to school repping their favorite pjs, robes, and slippers. “Pajama Day is great because it is the only time my parents let me wear a robe to school,” junior Brendan Radtke said.



## College Apparel Day:

Tuesday brought out the college rivalries all across BHS. The hallways were swamped with mostly Michigan and Michigan State shirts, but other schools from across the nation were represented. “College Apparel Day is cool because it gives me a chance to support colleges and their sports teams that I like,” freshman Ryan Stock said. Whether students wanted to show off their college pride or just threw on a shirt to fit the theme, the classrooms and halls were full of collegiate and thus Berkley spirit.



## Groutfit Day:

Grey on grey on grey; Wednesday was every fashionista’s nightmare: Groutfit Day. BHS students were dressed from head to toe in grey clothing. Groutfit Day made its first appearance on the spirit week line up this year and was a great success. “Groutfit was such a good theme because everyone owns grey, so more people participate, which is great,” sophomore Natalie Burt said.



## Camo Day:

Students? What students? Thursday’s theme, Camo Day, made all students practically invisible. That is the point of camo, right? Yet another new theme made its debut, and the turnout was superb. Some students went with full blown camo ensembles and others wore their army green. Either way, students were radiating with spirit. “Stud Lead switching up the themes is nice. I like camo day; it’s different and fun,” senior Kylie Wassenberg said.



## Snow Day:

Nothing screams Snowcoming like the classic Friday theme of Snow Day, more commonly known as a whiteout. Freshmen and seniors alike got decked out in all things white to get pepped for Saturday’s dance. “Wearing an all white outfit is the best because I love dressing up for spirit week. You’re only in high school once, so why not?” sophomore Carly Stone said. Whiteout was snow much fun.





# STUDENTS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF FLINT WATER CRISIS:

## KIDS DISTRIBUTE HUNDREDS OF FREE WATER BOTTLES

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

This past month, the state of Michigan has made national news—but in a terrible way. It was recently discovered that the water supply in Flint, MI was contaminated with a high amount of lead. Consumption of this tainted water causes several health problems; most significantly it can cause damage to the nervous system. Michigan governor Rick Snyder has done next to nothing to help those in need, but fortunately, other citizens all around the country are doing their part to support Flint.

Some of the most well-known people to provide aid to the city are rapper Meek Mill, who donated 60 thousand bottles of water; the entire defensive line of the Washington Redskins, who donated nearly four thousand bottles; and Detroit Lions' star defensive end Ziggy Ansah who donated 94 thousand water bottles. The largest donation, though, came from Mark Wahlberg and Sean (Diddy) Combs, who together donated around one million bottles. Even though these are high-profile celebrities, it does not take an upper-class income to help out those in need.

On Jan. 30, the Michigan Carpenters and Millwrights Union organized a bottle drive with students from local schools, including BHS and Ferndale. Students and adults with the Union drove to a church in Flint, where each participant was designated an area to distribute water bottles, leaving them on the doorsteps of every home assigned.

The students were exposed to a type of environment that they had not often encountered before. "It was kind of sad. Everyone we ran into seemed like they were in distress," sophomore Hannah Thomas said. Sophomore Hannah Mulheron added that, "The people that we did run into all asked for more water." Both students agreed that it is important to give aid to Flint not only because the city is near to Berkley, but also because it is the right thing to do to help out those in need.

Although this seems like a simple problem of contamination, there are many other complex issues that are embedded in Flint right now. This all started when a series of state-appointed emergency managers made the decision to switch Flint's

water away from the Detroit system to the Flint River, which was so corrosive that even the General Motors plant nearby would not use it. Since 2014, there have been numerous complaints about the water that Snyder has essentially ignored. Finally, on Jan. 5, still almost a whole month after the mayor of Flint requested a state of emergency, Snyder finally acted, declaring a state of emergency, which then resulted in President Obama allocating federal funds for Flint to help pay for bottles of water and filters. But the question is—why did it take so long? Junior Brendan Radtke said, "I fear that pros and cons were weighed before the decision [was made] to switch Flint's water supply: pros being the low cost, and cons being the poor water quality."

Considering the population of Flint is 60 percent black, racist undertones have been the elephant in the room for Snyder, as some Michigan residents, including journalist and Flint native Michael Moore, are considering this to be a racial issue. A lot of people, including Moore, are calling for a criminal investigation of Snyder. Others just think Snyder was too lazy or incapable to act on the issue, and a man like that should not be the governor of a state, especially one still on the rise from a recent economic crash. Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton called for Snyder to resign. Although seemingly a biased opinion, that is a clear indication of how poorly Snyder is thought of, as calling for a governor's resignation is not taken lightly.

Nonetheless, the Flint water crisis is a terrible, tragic situation, and quite frankly, it is an embarrassment to the state of Michigan. While things are not looking good now, no one has to stand by helplessly and watch the situation get worse. No matter who you are, where you are from, or how much money you have, everyone should be willing to put in the time and effort to provide aid to our fellow Michiganders in the city of Flint.

*"It was kind of sad. Everyone we ran into seemed like they were in distress."*





# Netflix Originals: New shows arrive

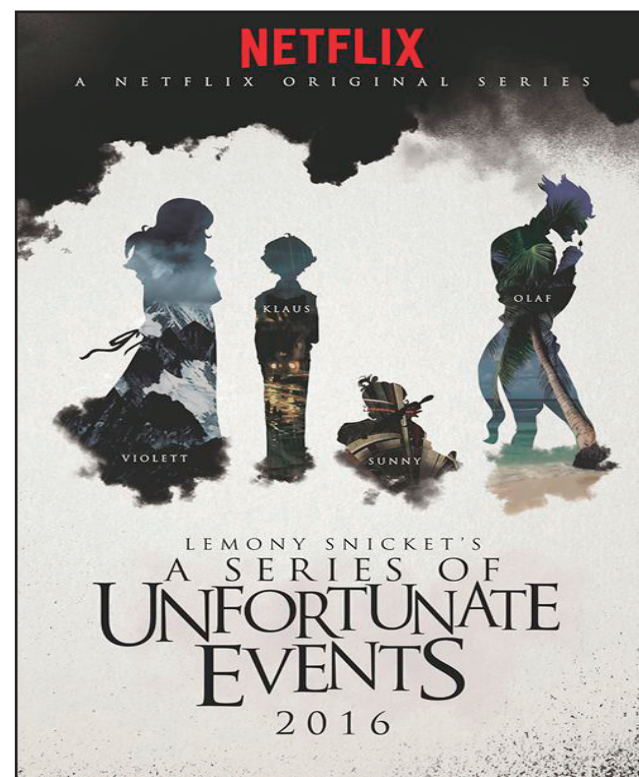
Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Editor

Ever since Netflix first introduced the “Netflix Original Series” to the streaming service in late 2012, the collection of new shows made by Netflix have become almost synonymous with excellence. Productions such as *Orange is the New Black* and *House of Cards* have set the standard for what people expect when they see a Netflix original series. These shows generally have good production values, great acting, and are solid, quality shows in most ways. With the almost guaranteed success of these series, many have been left wondering, what will they put out next? With so many shows being released, and even more rumored to be in production, it is hard to predict what one of their shows will be a hit and which ones will be a miss, but one thing is for certain, these two shows will be at the top of many people’s queue

**The Characters-** This sketch-based show will be premiering on Netflix in the coming months, and as of now it looks more promising than most would have originally thought. The episodes will each feature one of eight up and coming, but not well known, young comedians. They will write and star in their own episodes, each one receiving 30 minutes to do whatever they please. This format is unusual in that it gives these comedians close to complete control over their show. The comics’ episodes could provide a preview of who will be writing and directing TV shows, movies, and comedy in almost every form in the years to come. The list of eight comedians that will be featured on this show has been released, and while none of them have much name recognition, they have starred on popular shows like *Orange is the New Black*, *Broad City*, and *Saturday Night Live*.

**A Series of Unfortunate Events-** Based off of the series of books by the same name, this show is sure to take advantage of the excellent production value that Netflix has established as one of their trademarks. The show will follow the misadventures of the three Baudelaire siblings named Violet, Klaus, and Sunny. The kids experience the worst possible life that one could imagine. The three of them float from guardian to guardian, with most of them dropping dead by the hands of the villain of the series, Count Olaf. While the story of the Baudelaire children is undeniably sad, it includes many heartwarming moments and fantastic sets that the show is sure to utilize. There is not a full cast currently confirmed for the show, but actor Neil Patrick Harris will be playing Count Olaf alongside the newer actress Malina Weissman, who will be playing Violet. While Netflix has not given an exact release date for the show, they have confirmed that they are working on it, and it will be released in 2016.

These two shows are among the many that have been announced to come out in the coming year, and it has people excited. Senior Patrick Schindler is a member of the advanced video class at Berkley High, and *The Characters* has him pumped up for the release. Schindler said, “As a producer in high school, the idea of someone not much older than me getting the resources from Netflix to do whatever they want is amazing.” He went on to say that if he were given this chance, being able to create one of the characters would be life changing even if it did not go well. Schindler is among the masses of people who are counting the days until the series that peaks their interest comes out.



Netflix unveils new poster for *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

Photos courtesy of Netflix US and Canada

# Grease then, Grease now, Grease: Live!

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

In 1971, *Grease* the musical, a story set in the 50s, was produced. This musical detailed the fun and flare of the era, becoming a cinematic and musical phenomenon. Furthermore, to join the trend of putting live theater on television, Fox produced *Grease: Live!* on Jan. 31.

Recently, live productions have risen in popularity. Broadway theater shows such as *The Wiz*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Peter Pan* were modernized with famous celebrity actors to fit today’s television era. *Grease: Live!* was unique from all the other live television theater shows with its additional distinctive live audience.

*Grease: Live!* is filled with today’s hottest stars, including Julianne Hough, Aaron Tveit, Vanessa Hudgens, Carlos PenaVega, Keke Palmer, Carly Rae Jepsen, and Mario Lopez. “Aaron Tveit and Juilanne Hough were the perfect Danny and Sandy,” junior Emily Muench said. The cast did a spectacular job, and they brought the musical colorfully to life. The show also includes guest musicians such as Jessie J, Boys II Men, and Joe Jonas.

However, there have been some mixed reviews

regarding the details of the show. Many people felt as though the new songs did not fit the 50s era, and some actors did not deliver as well as expected. “I was not a huge fan of Keke Palmer,” Muench said. Also, many did not enjoy the live audience. “I thought it would be great to hear the clapping and the laughter of the audience, but to see them apart of the actual show, it ruined the illusion for me,” senior Jack Bacow said.

Nevertheless, the show was still enjoyable, and many stars did a great job. Hudgens, portraying a feisty Rizzo, performed excellently, even with the heartbreaking news of her father’s passing from stage four cancer hours before the show. “After everything that Hudgens went through with her father’s passing, I thought she had an amazing performance,” Bacow said.

*Grease: Live!* had its ups and downs. But, it was inevitably hard to live up to the classic of *Grease*. Although *Grease: Live!* had its minor issues, the show was still super fun, energetic and it let people remember the old days of the Pink Ladies and the T-Birds.



Photo courtesy of Flickr user Ralph Hagaboom



## 14 THE SPECTATOR

## THE FIVE WAVES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Adison Kaiser '18, Assistant Photo Editor

The universe is huge. There are so many undiscovered things that we will never know about. For instance, people have always wondered if there is other life out there. The existence of aliens is something that people ponder all the time. In the film, *The 5th Wave*, brought to the big screen on Jan. 22, humans were finally able to figure out the answer regarding alien existence when a ship of "The Others," comes to Earth and tries to wipe out the human race.

*The 5th Wave*, directed by J Blakeson, is based off of the book series by Rick Yancey, and focuses on 16-year-old Cassie Sullivan. Cassie, portrayed by Chloë Grace Morteaux, was a typical 16-year-old when the film began; her life was just like any other teenage girl's until The Others came to Earth.

The Others attacked Earth in five waves: the first wave is an electromagnetic wave, the second is tsunamis, the third is a deadly disease transmitted by birds, the fourth consists of The Others physically coming down to Earth, and the fifth wave is an army made of the children that survived the first four waves. These children are trained by The Others to finish off what they could not.

These five waves kill off the majority of Earth's population, and as the story goes on, Cassie is trying to survive and bring back her younger brother who was taken to be one of the child soldiers.

The movie, overall, had an unsatisfying outcome and did not receive the best reviews. The feature received a rating of 17 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, 33 percent on Metacritic,

and 5.6/10 on IMDb.

The plotline all resulted in an extremely mediocre story, focusing mainly on Cassie's love life instead of the fact that there are aliens trying to wipe out the human race. The film was slow moving and made a big deal of the smaller details versus the much bigger and seemingly more important ones like the crisis itself; it also came off as very unorganized and jumped between the small, unimportant details. "They could have described things better; they made it confusing [regarding] what was going on," sophomore Dorothy England said.

The flick ended up being very disappointing to viewers due to the frustrating cliffhanger ending. There is a sequel to the book series but there is no word on a second movie just yet. If they do make a sequel though, hopefully it will be better than the first.



## GOEN BROTHERS' HAIL, CAESAR! FALLS SHORT

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

Written and directed by the famous brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, the movie *Hail, Caesar!* follows Hollywood "fixer" Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin), who works for the fictional Capitol Studios (resembling MGM Studios) in early 1950s Hollywood. Josh Brolin's portrayal of the real Eddie Mannix along with strong supporting performances from Alden Ehrenreich, George Clooney, Ralph Fiennes, Scarlett Johansson, Channing Tatum, and Tilda Swinton are the chief reasons to go see this film.

The main plot of the film revolves around Mannix scrambling to keep his stars in line and the producers happy. When the leading man Baird Whitlock (Clooney) for Capitol's new religious epic (also titled *Hail, Caesar!*) is kidnapped, Mannix must then embark on a hectic adventure to find him in which hilarity ensues.

While this movie had the potential to be a great story, the main plot is sadly bogged down by an overabundance of sub plots that do not really add any real depth to the story line. Commenting on the peculiar plot structure of the movie, senior Jacob Bathish said, "It just did not make any sense." *Hail, Caesar!* seems more like a hodge podge of short films rather than one cohesive movie. Freshman Jake Primak expanded upon the problems with the movie when he said, "The movie was very well shot, with excellent set designs and costuming, but it seemed like there were too many things going on at once. I understand that this was a love letter to classic cinema, but I wish we could have gone to know the characters better." Avoiding spoilers, the movie is not bad—it is just not that good. When compared to other Coen brothers classics like *No Country for Old Men*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Burn After Reading*, and *Fargo*, *Hail, Caesar!* does not hold a candle.

Warning: do not watch any trailers or clips for this movie, as I went into *Hail, Caesar!* and recognized practically all of the best and most memorable scenes from the those. By far, the most entertaining aspect of the movie is the character Hobie Doyle (Ehrenreich). Doyle is a Hollywood cowboy film star who must transition into playing the leading man in a sophisticated romantic drama, even though he has a strong country boy accent. Ehrenreich's performance was simply amazing and stood out compared to the other veteran actors featured.

Ultimately, *Hail, Caesar!* had potential to be a great film among the successful roster of other Coen brother movies, but falls short due to plot and pacing issues. At best, *Hail, Caesar!* is worth seeing at matinee pricing, but is also worth streaming online.





# GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL. POKEMON RETURNS

Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Editor

To many people, Sept. 28, 1998 was just a normal day. People went about their business, and it was far from extraordinary. However, this day marked the beginning of an era—An era of adventuring across foreign lands, of spending countless hours training, and of trading just to restart the process all over again. On this day, many people would start a quest to do one simple task: they would try to catch 'em all.

The Pokemon video and card games have played a pretty large role in the lives of people of all ages across the globe. Lunches were spent trading cards, late nights spent basking in the glow of a backlit screen so that the individual playing could get just that much further in his or her game. These memories of the franchise are shared by many people, and the game has become so much more than anyone ever could have guessed. No other videogame has gained the massive following that Pokemon has, and this is mostly due in part to the large interactive aspect that the makers of the game, Game Freak, have always put an emphasis on, and in the coming months, the Pokemon Company will be taking the next step in multiplayer gaming.

Pokemon GO is, on a very basic level, a combination of the classic games in that the objective is to catch and train as many Pokemon as possible, but the key difference is that this game will be available on iPhones and Androids as opposed to a Nintendo system. Not only is this game the first of the

franchise to be available on mobile devices, but it will also use their location services to make the game a truly unique experience. The events and creatures that one encounters while playing this game are based around where the person is actually located on the globe. This combination has both hardcore and casual fans of the series looking forward to its release. Senior Vinnie Tenaglia said, "It's a really cool idea, and me and my brothers have been excited for this game to come out ever since it was announced." The developers have described it as a mix of Google Earth and Pokemon, but it is also comparable to geocaching. Tenaglia continued to explain that the GPS integration in this game is what has him most excited for Pokemon GO. "Being able to catch Pokemon from the places I go and then using them to battle people I pass on the street is really the coolest thing they could do. I just hope the game doesn't suck!" exclaimed Tenaglia.

While all the details have not yet been released, what has been made known is that the game will be available in 2016 at some point, and that the new mechanics and platform has the Pokemon Company very excited. The Pokemon Company aired a one-minute ad during the Super Bowl, and that is not cheap. The 60 seconds of airtime they bought cost around 10 million dollars, which indicates the developers' confidence in the relatively unclear future of the game.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user GameFreak



Pokemon reveals its new logo for 20 year anniversary.

# A SUBSCRIPTION BASED WORLD : SOUNDCLOUD TRANSITIONS INTO STREAMING

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

On Jan. 13, the music streaming site SoundCloud struck a licensing deal with another major label, Universal Music Group. The deal allows SoundCloud to make money off tracks from popular Universal artists such as Sam Smith, U2, and The Weeknd through advertising.

Universal decided to work with the company after SoundCloud executives reiterated that SoundCloud would soon become a paid service. The deal allows Universal to control what songs are available to the general public and what songs will need to be bought in order to hear. Universal will also use the platform as a promotional tool. The company will be collecting data to generate the greatest revenue and gain a strong connection with fans of their artists. With 175 million monthly users, it is safe to say they will have a lot of information to sift through.

Now that SoundCloud is partners with two of the three biggest labels in the world, fans of the service are beginning to wonder when details of the imminent subscription will arise. Many are concerned with the possible price of the service, what will be added to the platform, and how SoundCloud will separate itself from other streaming services such as Tidal, Pandora, and Spotify.

Plenty of Berkley High School listeners have strong opinions on the deal and speculate about the near future of the once independent company. Senior Jayd Mathurin said, "It's a terrible idea to make us users pay to stream music.

They are going to lose a huge amount of users."

In the past year, SoundCloud has been sued by a label from the U.K. and has been threatened by many other labels who do not want their roster of artists to have music posted on the site. "This was a business decision. I respect them for linking up with these music superpowers, but still, I'm not paying for their service. At this point there are plenty of other ways to get free music and listeners who don't want to pay will find a new site to get music," Jayd continued.

Others who are committed to another platform also would not change, even if the price for SoundCloud is lower than what they are already paying. Junior Riley Sawicki said, "I'm a Spotify user, and I don't see a large difference in the platform, so I would not change. All my music is on there and SoundCloud is alright, but I'm not going to pay for another service that has sped up music or even remixes."

Others in the minority are open to the change and would still embrace SoundCloud if they had to pay for the service. "I enjoy SoundCloud, so I would pay for the service. The platform has never disappointed me, and I can see myself sticking with it," senior Jacob Bathish said.

Very few people agree with SoundCloud's latest business decisions and are hesitant to think about living in a world without the free music platform. Though fans can speculate about the future of SoundCloud, all they can do is wait to see what the company puts out to the public.



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP



Photos courtesy of Flickr user Ashton6460 and Universal Music Group



# The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of February

## Tamales and Churros

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

With the current popularity of Mexican chain restaurants like Chipotle, Qdoba, and even the remaining loyalty to Taco Bell, it is still important to take a step back and look at the traditional MesAmerican and Spanish foods that possess true cultural significance. The Mexican tamale is most often eaten as a comfort food at celebrations, usually consisting of a corn based dough filled with meats, cheeses, and/or chilies wrapped in corn husks or plantain leaves. In addition to Mexican culture, Spanish Churros, comparable to donuts, are long, skinny cylindrical pieces of fried dough covered in cinnamon sugar that are often dipped in chocolate sauce. Commenting on the sentimental value of the Churro, Norup Spanish Teacher and Mallorca, Spain native Señora Francisca Roth-Horst said, "[Churros] are a special part of a very Spanish breakfast. We do not really do the eggs or bacon that people do [in the United States]; we do more of the pastries and sweet things." So the next time you are deciding where to eat, look no further than these culturally revered dishes.

## Recycle bin-less

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Recently, it has come to my attention that not every classroom in BHS has recycling bins. This seemed strange to me, seeing as I really cannot think of a single disadvantage to having one. Nonetheless, a few classes remain bin-less for some unknown reason. Granted, there is not an official school policy that says there should be a bin in every class, but even still, it just does not seem right. How could anyone in their right mind be anti-recycling? In a school, paper is the number one source of information, and not having a recycling bin is just foolish. Every piece of paper that is thrown away as opposed to recycled further hurts our environment, and frankly, I do not like to see teachers encouraging the wasting of resources. I suggest students stop throwing away recyclable material in rooms without bins, but rather place them on the floor next to the trash can, in the space where a recycling bin belongs.

## Swim team hair

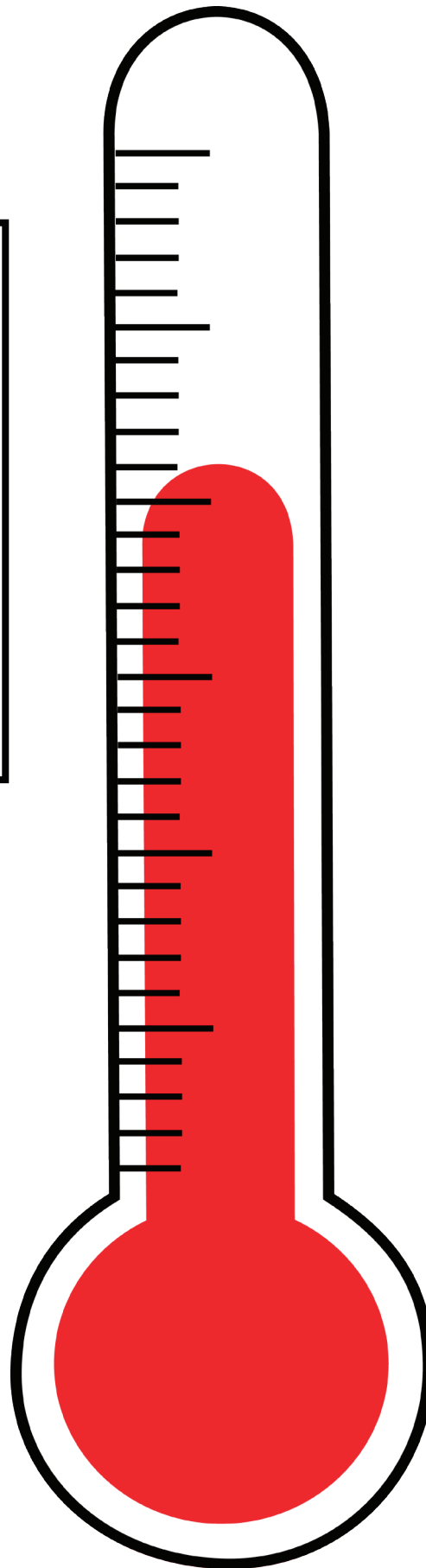
Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Every year, the Boys Varsity Swim and Dive team has a tradition of bleaching and then shaving their hair a few weeks later, right before the league meet. One month before the crucial meet, the team visits the Alex Emilio beauty salon for a professional bleaching process to ensure that their chlorine damaged locks are properly killed off. Sophomore and first time diver Reginald Hawkins commented, "Even though it is scary to have to bleach my hair, it was a really fun process." He continued, "It makes [swimmers] feel more like a team because everyone notices." The team returns to school the next day and, as promised by Hawkins, everyone marvels over the newly inducted toe heads of the school. Finally, a week before the league meet, the swimmers gather once again to complete the process. Everyone breaks out their razors and shaving cream to go baby bald, and not just on their heads. This helps the swimmers glide through the water, without the resistance of hair, on their way to a successful league meet and even sates for some.

## Playoff season

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

Year after year, we get the opportunity to see the top football teams battle it out and compete for various bowls and championships. To some, this period of time is like a holiday, ranking amongst the top occasions in sports, joining March Madness and other national championships. In the National Football League, as well as at the college level, the playoffs are usually filled with excitement and nail biting finishes. However, this year did not shape up to be one similar to years past. At the collegiate level, 12 bowl games, including two playoff games, were decided by at least a 20 point winning margin. In the NFL, there have been three blowouts this playoff season, and the Super Bowl was decided by two touchdowns. The Super Bowl did, however, end in an upset according to the Las Vegas line of 4.5 in favor of Carolina. Fortunately for sports fans, as we pass this drought in football, March Madness is soon approaching.





# Winter sports stars: The bears of good news

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

With great power comes great responsibility. The Berkley Bears winter sports stars have throughly fulfilled this responsibility and have performed well in yet another season in their respective sports. The combination of talent and hardwork from these athletes has contributed to the success of their teams, and we look forward to seeing how they will contribute further as the push for the playoffs approaches.

## HOCKEY

**Name:** Zach Leonard

**Years Played:** 11

**Years on Varsity:** 2

**Stats so far this season:** 28 goals, 22 assists, 50 points

**Career varsity stats:** 54 goals, 46 assists, 100 points

**Favorite memory:** Scoring five goals in one game against Lake Orion



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Name:** Celia Somers

**Years Played:** 9

**Years on Varsity:** 4

**Stats so far this season:** 12 points, 4 assists, 3 steals, and 3 charges taken per game

**Favorite memory:** This year's matchup against Bloomfield Hills when they made an 18-point comeback in the fourth quarter to tie it up



## SKATING

**Name:** Anna Treppa

**Years Played:** 11

**Years on Varsity:** 4

**Stats so far this season:** A season: 4th place; B season: 1st place; C season: 4th place

**Favorite memory:** Winning the state championship last year with season B team



## WRESTLING

**Name:** Vinny Tenaglia

**Years Played:** 11

**Years on Varsity:** 4

**Stats so far this season:** 30-10 record

**Career varsity stats:** 98-53 career record

**Favorite memory:** Winning the league championship last year



## SWIM AND DIVE

**Name:** Eli Falk

**Years Played:** 11

**Years on Varsity:** 4

**Career achievements:** two time state qualifier, two time All-OAA

**Favorite memory:** Winning leagues during freshman year



## BOYS BASKETBALL

**Name:** Jerome Cobb

**Years Played:** 11

**Years on Varsity:** 2

**Stats so far this season:** 20 points, 6 assists, and 4 steals per game

**Favorite memory:** Hitting the buzzer beater to win against Waterford Mott





# “THE BASED GOD CURSE” PLAGUES NBA SUPERSTARS

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

On May 25, 2011, the sports world was turned upside down when one superstar forward made a terrible, terrible mistake: he disrespected the self-proclaimed “Based God” rapper Lil B. After Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant called Lil B a “wack rapper,” Lil B unleashed his wrath on Durant, casting upon him the “Based God” Curse. This intriguing news was announced on Twitter the night of May 25, 2015, declaring that Durant will never win an NBA Championship.

Surely this curse means nothing, right? There is no way some rapper can change the fate of another person, team, city, and even a whole league, right? “There’s no way the curse is real. It’s impossible,” junior Ephraim Gibson said. Well, Lil B has seemingly beaten the odds, as the evidence of the “Based God” Curse grows stronger and stronger with each year that passes.

Since the curse, not only has Durant never won a championship, but he has also encountered several injuries, leading to him missing the majority of the 2014-15 season. Additionally, the Thunder did not even qualify to make the playoffs that year. In spite of all this, many people still doubt the greatness of the “Based God,” and doubt his ability to “control the skies,” as he also proclaims in a tweet. To doubt this man (or more than a man) could prove to be a fatal mistake.

So, for all of those who supposedly think “logically,” it is time to stop being pretentious and listen to yet another case of the “Based God” Curse. Last year, MVP runner-up James Harden, a Houston Rockets’ guard, was having a monster season until he started using a “cooking” celebration. This celebration was previously owned by none other than Lil B, who did not take too kindly to his signature dance being stolen.

Lil B said that all Harden had to do was acknowledge that he stole the dance, and he would withdraw the curse. But Harden foolishly doubted the validity of the “Based God,” and did not comment on the matter. This led to a warning from Lil B, but no official curse came. After this warning, Harden fumbled the ball on the final play of a playoff game against the Warriors, when a basket would have won the game. This really sparked some conversation about the alleged curse.

Even still, Harden’s egotistical ways led him not to acknowledge Lil B, and again he would have to pay the price. Junior Jonah Stern said, “I don’t understand why [Harden] wouldn’t just give Lil B credit to end the curse.” In a game against the Warriors where a loss would send his team home, Harden set the all-time record for turnovers in an NBA playoff game, which was possibly the worst case-scenario for him.

After this travesty, the “Based God” showed mercy, as he believed Harden had suffered enough for his mistake. But recently, news surfaced that Harden did not even know who Lil B was after his team was eliminated from the playoffs, which prompted Lil B to reinstate

the “Based God” Curse. This season, the Rockets have had a rough start, going 28-28 and already firing their head coach Kevin Malone. All around the league, neither LeBron James or Stephen Curry is the most feared man in basketball—it is instead rapper Lil B.

Shortly after Harden’s encounter with the “Based God,” Lil B warned several members of the Cleveland Cavaliers after they stole his “cooking” dance while celebrating their win in the Eastern Conference Championship. Wisely, shooting guard Iman Shumpert tweeted an apology to the rapper, as he said, “Preciate the swag killa... All love.” The ever-so-forgiving “Based God” responded in humble forgiveness, and wished the Cavaliers luck in the NBA Finals.

The most recent notable Lil B event occurred this past summer after the conclusion of the NBA season. The Philadelphia 76ers, who have been a losing franchise for several years now, were looking for a new centerpiece for their team to go along with rookie center Jahlil Okafor, who else could possibly be a better addition to the team than the one and only “Based God”?

Lil B attended several tryouts for the 76ers Developmental League team this summer but did not make the team. Philadelphia should be wary of disrespecting the “Based God” in the future, as this year they are 8-47, making them statistically the worst team in the NBA.

The “Based God Curse” has plagued the league under the radar for years now. All these monstrous athletes can do now is bow down to the 5’6” rapper and beg him for mercy, as he, not NBA commissioner Adam Silver, controls the fates of their NBA careers.



Photo Courtesy of: Mark J. Terril

The notorious “Based God” haunts NBA player James Harden of the Houston Rockets.

# DYLAN LARKIN: THE FUTURE OF THE RED WINGS

Miles Berlin '18, Sports Editor

At 19 years old, rookie Red Wing Dylan Larkin almost looks like he could be attending Berkley High School. Instead, he is playing in the NHL on his hometown team, the Detroit Red Wings. Larkin was drafted 15th overall by the Red Wings in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft, and he has 19 goals and 20 assists so far this season for a total of 39 points. “Just being a Red Wing is the best thing that has ever happened to me” Larkin said to the Detroit Free Press.

Born and raised in Waterford Township, Michigan, Larkin started his hockey career at a young age. Instead of playing high school hockey, like most kids involved in the sport, Larkin played on the USA National Development Team. The team ended up beating Switzerland in the Development league Championship with Larkin recording 13 goals and 14 assists in the tournament.

After winning, Larkin went on to play for the University of Michigan. In his freshman year, he had a total of 14 points: seven goals and seven assists. Larkin averaged the most points per game of any freshman collegiate hockey player in the last 60 years, with 1.5 per game. In the Big Ten Championship Tournament, he broke the record for most points in a championship game, with one goal and three assists.

After his first year of college, Larkin declared for the entry draft. He made his first NHL

start on Oct. 9, 2015, becoming the first 19-year-old Red Wing to do so since Jiri Fischer in 1990. On Oct. 15, Larkin recorded his first NHL point with an assist early in the first period, then his first goal in that same game. Later in the season, Larkin scored a goal each in four consecutive games, the first Red Wings rookie to do so since Steve Yzerman, one of the best Red Wings and NHL players of all time. “I think he is the most underrated player in the NHL” said freshman hockey player Marcus Frankel.

Larkin was given the honor of attending the NHL All-Star game as a rookie, and he is the first rookie Red Wing to attend the All-Star game since Steve Yzerman in 1984. While there, Larkin broke the all-time record for speed skating around the rink, the previous record was 13.386 seconds, set by Mike Gartner in 1996 Larkin finished with a 13.17 second time, creating a new record and solidifying his status as a legitimate All-Star in the league. “He is going to be an outstanding player throughout the rest of his career” Frankel added.

Right now, Larkin is in good company with a team that has a large number of veterans that can help make him a better NHL player, and a group of young players with whom he can relate to and create chemistry with. Many fans believe a long, prosperous career is in store for this young Michigan native.



# Bears football players make final commitments: A look into their college football recruitment

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

On Feb. 3, seniors Austen Wood and Nolan Givan joined high school football players across the country in signing their National Letter of Intent (NLI), officially committing to play football at Findlay University and Ball State University, respectively. Fans of college football have always been curious about the recruiting process, so I decided to find out what being a touted recruit is like.

## How did it feel to finally fax in your NLI?

**Austen Wood-** “[It was] a big relief to finally sign with a place I’m very comfortable with.”

**Nolan Givan-** “It was a very relieving feeling. I was ecstatic and very excited to get started with my new school.”

## What is the typical official visit like?

**AW-** “They bring us on campus and show us everything they have to offer and pay for everything.”

**NG-** “Official visits involved spending time with the team and the coaches, getting tours, [and] eating a lot of food. And just hanging out on campus and getting a feel for the school.”

## What was the hardest thing about being recruited?

**AW-** “[The] hardest thing does not know what school was going to offer me. [I] Visited so many, [but] not all offered.”

**NG-** “The hardest thing about being recruited was making a decision at the end on where I wanted to go.”



## What was your favorite thing about going through the recruiting process?

**AW-** “The best part was it was awesome to meet so many people and see so many places. They treated us like royalty.”

**NG-** “[I enjoyed] visiting all the schools and seeing what they had to offer was the best part.”

## What are you most excited for at your respective school?

**AW-** “I’m excited to play at the next level and play early, I have a great shot to play as a true freshman.”

**NG-** “I’m looking forward to getting back on the field again and gaining a whole new experience.”

Photo by Annie Silver

Wood and Givan have given Berkeley football fans a lot to cheer about over the last couple of years, and that has caught the attention of college coaches across the midwest. Their recruitment kept the student body tuned in and intrigued by the process and more importantly excited to see where Wood and Givan would compete at the next level.

# Cavaliers fire head coach in midst of championship season

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

Headed by superstar LeBron James, the Cleveland Cavaliers are in the midst of another NBA Championship contending season. However, on Jan. 24, the team decided to part ways with their head coach, David Blatt. Blatt is the most successful head coach in NBA history to get fired mid-season. Leading the Cavs to the NBA Finals in his first year as a coach and bringing them atop the Eastern Conference at the time of his dismissal, a lot of questions arise as to why general manager David Griffin made the decision.

In Griffin’s first press conference following the firing of Blatt, he told ESPN, “What I see is that we need to build a collective spirit, a strength of spirit, a collective will.” He went on to tell reporters that Blatt was simply not fulfilling the job of conducting an enthusiastic and devoted type of play. It was also reported that Blatt commonly picked favorites and would not criticize players like James and Kyrie Irving.

A lot of people saw this coming after the Cavaliers suffered a blowout loss to the title favorite Golden State Warriors, losing by 32 points. These types of games are supposed to be close contests which reveal who the real dominant teams are. These games between two powerhouses are expected to be some the most exciting contests in the regular season.

Many wonder if it really is such a big deal to fire a head coach of a team filled with superstars. With arguably the best player in the league, one can assume that he can lead the team and be more effective than any head coach, especially since the best connections

are player to player connections. Sophomore Matt Austin said, “I think that LeBron is a good enough leader where he can man the floor with little help from a coach.” However, no matter how great the player, there needs to be a coach who has the power to make the final decision. Most people would understand that Blatt was doing something right in order to be successful, the only problem was that assistant coach Tyronn Lue was known to make all of the critical decisions. Lue has now taken over the head coaching job. He has known James since he was a kid, and with that bond of trust between the leader on the court and the coach, the connection was more suited for success. Since Lue took over as head coach, the Cavs are undefeated and have scored over 100 points in all except one game.

The firing of Blatt in the midst of a successful season may impact organizations in many ways. For example, teams may experiment with lessening the power of the head coach and hand over command to the best player on the floor. Also, powerhouse teams with the talent to be successful could potentially hire a head coach more for the purpose of creating bonds with the players and hyping them up instead of being involved in the game itself. The essence of firing the head coach of a very successful NBA team proves to some extent that at that high level of play, the players might be the ones who are better off making the decisions.



## What Trump's candidacy says about America

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

When I first sat down to write this, I was perplexed. My first idea was to go through all of the crazy things Republican front runner Donald Trump has said alongside his ever rising poll numbers, but because of around the clock news coverage, anyone who would take the time to read this already knows most of the things I planned to highlight.

To be honest, when I first thought of the idea about writing on Trump's campaign, I thought it would be a lot easier than this. Trump has clearly given me a lot of writing material, but just repeating the obscene things he says is clearly not enough to sway American voters (election results will prove that). What is so fascinating about Trump is that, to me at least, it seems like most people are more scared of him than truly in support of him. Granted, that may be because the people I associate with are likely to have at least semi-similar political views, but even so, I would have thought I would know at least one out-of-the-closet Trump supporter.

This begs an important question: how is it possible that he keep winning? It is a question that I honestly never thought I would have to ask myself; from the very day his campaign began, it seemed like it was doomed. When, in his announcement speech, he said, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. . . . They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," I figured there was no way he would last as an actual considered candidate. How can someone consistently burns bridges with various large groups including Latinos, African Americans, and arguably women, still win states in primary elections?

Trump's campaign has revealed many deep rooted problems within America, but two strongly stand out. The first thing Trump's candidacy has revealed is just how messed up the Republican party is. One of the reasons why Trump is able to do so well is because the other Republicans are just that disastrous. Look, I'm not going to sit here and act like I'm not biased. I am a Democrat, and I was raised by Democrats, but the modern day Republican party is really a joke. For God's sake, the party generally doesn't believe in *climate change*. At this point in modern day science, if you don't believe in climate change, you might as well believe that the Earth is flat. It is an inarguable fact that the Earth is heating up and that humans are at the very least partially responsible. Next, they are anti-gun control. Want to know why we are the only industrialized nation that struggles with civilian mass shootings? It's because of the Republican party. They are anti-women's rights, anti-gay, anti-education, and anti-progress. There is a party in the U.K. that is similar to our Republican party, but it is not the Conservatives. It is a tiny party called Britain First that gets virtually no support. America's Republican Party has become so fractured that their front runner for 2016 is universally hated by the establishment. Trump's success is a product of Republican voters rebelling against the party establishment by supporting someone, for lack of a better word, as Trumpy as Trump.

Next, Trump's success highlights how idiotic the average American person can be. In the system we have set up, even though it may not seem like it, the power belongs to the people. There are a lot of factors that have contributed to Trump's rise, but at the end of the day, it is the people that choose the president. I figured Trump could never win an election because, at the end of the day, people have to actually vote for him. I figured he would have some supporters, but I just assumed that when push came to shove and people stepped into the booth, that little voice in the back of everyone's head would steer Americans in the right direction. I was clearly wrong, and nobody said it better than the character of Jen Barkley, political powerbroker in Parks and Recreation. When asked if she was underestimating the American voters, she replied, "I don't think that that's possible." Make no mistake, Trump's widespread success is fueled by votes. The people of America are continually choosing Donald Trump as the person they want to run this government, and that says a lot about the quality of the other choices, but it also says a lot about the intelligence of the people doing the voting.

The scariest part about this entire thing is the stakes. This election could represent a large turning point in American democracy. Firstly, after eight years of progress under President Barack Obama, electing any Republican would almost immediately void that. Most, if not all of the candidates have vowed to repeal Obamacare along with many other of Obama's best works. Beyond guiding our nation to either progression or regression, the next president will likely appoint multiple Supreme Court Justices, which could set the foundation of the Supreme Court for the next 30 to 40 years. If Donald Trump does win the Republican primary, he will likely lose to the Democratic nominee, whether it be to Senator Hillary Clinton or Congressman Bernie Sanders. This would (hopefully) cause the internal implosion of the Republican party, and would (ideally) usher in a new, more progressive era of American politics. Until then, Donald Trump's campaign should serve as a wake up call for the American people.

## Politicians, you are not medical professionals

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case titled *Roe v. Wade* that it was a woman's right to choose whether or not she could have an abortion. They cited the Right to Privacy in the 14th amendment as the constitutional reasoning behind their 7-2 ruling.

At the time, this decision was controversial, and since then there have been many who have repeatedly challenged and disagreed with the court's ruling based upon their own moral or religious views. Even though the ruling still stands, conservative legislators have worked to make it more difficult for women to have access to these medical operations. In some states, it has become almost impossible for women to have an abortion even though it is their right as protected by federal law.

Even though only 19 percent of the population believes that no abortion should be permitted under any circumstances, state laws have been the cause of numerous clinics closing. In the states of Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri, there is now only one clinic throughout each state.

The reason that states have been able to make decisions regarding abortion because of another Supreme Court ruling, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. In this case, it was decided that the right to an abortion would remain legal, but states could place restrictions on that right as long as it was not an "undue burden" on the woman. This means an obstacle significant enough to be a burden on a person's fundamental rights. This provision is vague, and has given states the freedom to create and enforce laws that they believe fall within the legal limits outlined in the ruling, resulting in an increased difficulty for women to receive proper health care.

States have begun to institute TRAP laws, or targeted regulations of abortion providers. These laws are created to single out abortion providers and impose regulations on them that other medical practices do not have to abide by. Those who support these laws say that the reason for their creation is the protection of women's health, but in reality they are working to do the exact opposite. They are an attempt to inhibit a woman's choice and jeopardize their access to a safe and legal reproductive choice. These laws have allowed politicians to end abortion access without breaking any federal laws because they are said to be an attempt to protect women.

For example, many states have enacted laws that require clinics to have admitting privileges to local hospitals, but these are difficult to obtain, especially in certain states where hospitals can refuse to accept them because they do not want to be caught up in abortion politics, therefore making the operation of these clinics impossible. Most first trimester procedures either entail taking medication like a pill or an operation that requires no cutting and is minimally invasive, meaning there is no need to have admitting privileges. If there is a very rare complication, even without admitting privileges a patient would just go to the nearest hospital and receive treatment and if the doctor had any questions they would just have to ask the doctor who performed the abortion. Clearly, these these laws are legislators' backdoor attempt to inhibit legal abortion.

Medical associations such as the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have publicly opposed TRAP regulations. The AMA is the largest professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students in the United States, and the ACOG is an organization created to protect women's health with evidence-based practice guidelines. The AMA and ACOG submitted an amicus curiae brief, which is an outside opinion on a court case, in the case *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* that states "H.B. 2 [TRAP laws implemented by Texas] imposes government regulation on abortion care that is not based on scientific facts or the best available medical knowledge...there is simply no medical basis for requiring that abortion facilities meet the standards for ambulatory surgical centers ("ASC requirement") or for enforcing a local admitting privileges requirement against abortion providers ("privileges requirement")." The fact that the opinions of well respected medical professional are being disregarded by politicians is ridiculous. People that make policy should be looking to experts for advice so that they can make the most informed and safe decisions instead of letting their personal beliefs overshadow what is right.

Legislation has also implemented certain hoops for not only the clinic, but women themselves to jump through when they make the choice to have an abortion. In some states, women have to see a sonogram of the fetus as well as listen to someone describe it in intricate detail. If they do not wish to see it their only option is to cover their ears and their eyes. In other places, the states require medical professionals to inform women of the "risks" associated with the procedure, even though some of them are based in little to no evidence. It is a person's right to receive informed consent on all medical procedures, but 32 states have taken advantage of this right by adding informed consent mandates to abortion. Instead of receiving information to help them accurately and better understand what they are about to go through, women are receiving information that is not intended to inform them of their choice, but rather scare and dissuade them from making it. For example, in a few states, doctors have to tell patients that there is an increased chance of developing breast cancer if one has an abortion even though the National Cancer Institute has come out as saying that it is "well-established" that "induced abortion is not associated with an increase in breast cancer risk."

The idea that Republican lawmakers are looking out for a woman's best interest is not reflected in their policy to make abortion impractical or altogether impossible. When abortion is not legal, women are then forced to use desperate and unsafe measures to end a pregnancy or have a child when they are not ready or suitable to be a parent. The fact that politics have made it so that medical professionals can and are forced to tell false information is completely unethical and unacceptable. What was granted to women through *Roe v. Wade* is being chipped away and many women are being left without access to their constitutional right.