

# #SPECTATOR



# 2015

A Year in Review  
pgs. 10-11

2 THE SPECTATOR

SPECTATOR STAFF

Editors-in-Chief:

Corey Lipton  
Josh Radom  
Emma Weisberger

Managing Editors:

Nicole Doctoroff  
Bennett Hart

Senior Copy Editor:

Kit Charlton

News Editor:

Drew Leshman

Feature Editor:

Josh Segall

Student Life Editors:

Zoe Blake  
Katie Wolberg

Opinion Editor:

Adam Yaker

Hot or Not Editor:

Will Shulak

Entertainment Editors:

Cam Cece  
Sloan Elie

Sports Editors:

Miles Berlin  
Justin Flood

Website Directors:

Cobian Gleason  
Jake Kreinbring

Business/Ad Manager:

Aaron Berlin

Photo Editor:

Annie Silver

Assistant Photo Editors:

Katie Cross  
Adison Kaiser

Circulation Managers:

Max Fields  
Jordan McGee

Adviser:

Ms. Mullins

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE STUDENT JOURNALIST

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. The Berkley High School Spectator is published by the Journalism class in Room 116. All articles express the sole opinions of the writers and are fully backed by facts, quotes and legitimate resources. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by e-mail or mail. Address: 2325 Catalpa Berkley, MI 48072. E-mail: bhsspectator@yahoo.com.

**AMG**  
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROUP

**PROCESS IMPROVEMENT SPECIALISTS**

AMG provides world-class productivity improvement and interim management expertise for manufacturing companies seeking operational excellence.

Our national award-winning team specializes in under-performing companies, applying the world's best process improvement solutions to client's issues.

29488 WOODWARD, SUITE 183 ROYAL OAK, MI 48073  
248.302.0032 WWW.YOUR-AMG.COM

2015  
THE M&A ADVISOR  
AWARD FINALIST

- Restructuring Deal of the Year
- Consumer & Retail Products Deal of the Year
- Corporate & Strategic Acquisition of the Year

- Process Engineering Consulting
- Supplier Situation Management
- Due Diligence Services
- Cost Accounting Consulting
- Interim Management

marlee's  
by tappers

The place for fun, fashion jewelry and gifts from \$10!

Twelve Oaks • West Bloomfield • Somerset Collection  
marleesstyle.com

Join Today

Berkley High School  
Parent Teacher  
Association

PATRONS

Become a Patron today by contacting Ms. Mullins or anyone on the staff!! Thank you, Patrons!

Silver \$35  
Pamela Primak

Gold \$50  
The Small Family

Diamond \$100  
Amy and Jim Berlin  
The Lipton Family

Check out the Spectator online at [bhsspectator.com](http://bhsspectator.com)!

Photos on cover courtesy of Wikipedia Common users Gage Skidmore, John Cummings, Magnus Manske, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, BOA, Soe Zeya, HilmiHacaloğlu, Pete Souza, Claude Truong-Ngoc, Nickon, We hope, Tom Beetz, Michael Vadon, Michael Vadon, kokonotsu, maryland govpics, white house press, Chad Mcneely, avda, cmacauley

# Islamic nations join together, forming a coalition against ISIS

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

**What** is ISIS?

**Who** is the Islamic Coalition?

Saudi Arabia will be the first Middle Eastern nation to counteract ISIS by declaring a coalition of 34 Muslim united against the terror organization.

The initial effects of the coalition are still in question in terms of a ground based force opposed to a solely political defense. When asked about the specifics of means of attack, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told Al Jazeera in a December interview, "The decisions will be made by individual countries in terms of what to contribute, and when to contribute it, and in what form and shape they would like to make that contribution."

Al-Jubeir also went on to establish the coalition's two main initiatives. The first is security and military, which involves the exchange of information, training, equipment and providing forces where and when necessary. The second is combating ideology; this involves the use of religious scholars, educators, political leaders, and other experts to "drown out the message of the extremists," Jubeir said. This approach, Jubeir continued, "will focus on how to deliver effective messages, counter extremist messages, and protect youth."

Since 2014, the U.S. has been the primary force opposing ISIS, comprising 80 percent of the air strikes. The U.S.-led coalition has sent over 150 bomber planes to Syria, the next highest being France with 38. The effectiveness of this new Muslim coalition has been brought into question because half of the countries, who are most directly affected by ISIS, have not yet carried out bombings in Syria or Iraq. This has led to controversy regarding the complacency of the Middle East to act on ISIS attacks. However, with the Islamic coalition, things could look to change as ISIS will be facing more attacks and taking more direct action. Junior Zach Schwartz said, "It is definitely a step forward in the fight against ISIS. It goes to show the Obama administration's wisdom [in keeping] ground troops out of the region and [the] focus on an Arab coalition rather than an endless war like in Iraq."

As the U.S. and other countries who have been affected by ISIS gather together in alliance, it is a strong reassurance seeing 34 new nations fighting for the same cause. Although it has taken more than two years, the Islamic coalition is a monumental step in decreasing terrorism caused by ISIS all over the world.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has terrorized the lives of innocent people in an attempt to establish a caliphate, an Islamic state governed by a harsh interpretation of Islamic law. The group of radical Muslims aspire to launch Jihad, or a "Holy War," in order to drive western influence out of the Middle East, in addition to spreading fear and uniting the nations within the Islamic diaspora under one flag. The members of ISIS are mostly from Iraq and Syria, but some are from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libya, Yemen, Egypt, and the U.S.

The nations forming this coalition include: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Turkey, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Djibouti, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Gabon, Guinea, the Palestinians, Comoros, Qatar, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Yemen. For most of these nations, this is their first involvement in acts against ISIS.

Information courtesy of CNN

## Local Oregon militia takes control of federal wildlife refuge

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

Peaceful protest in Harney County, Oregon developed into an armed takeover of the nearby Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Protesters gathered on behalf of Father Dwight Hammond, and his son Steven Hammond to defend them against charges of arson on federal lands. However, while both of the Hammonds turned themselves in to serve their sentences, the militia group remained at the refuge.

The leader of the militia, Ammon Bundy, is focusing the efforts of the militia on more than justice for the Hammonds. The group claims to be protecting constitutional rights of the people, and Bundy wants federal land to be returned to local ranchers, as he and his followers believe federal ownership of those lands is unconstitutional.

The citizens of Harney County and the Sheriff have asked Bundy to go home. Many of the people feel unsafe because of their presence, and there have even been reports of harassment, but Bundy does not plan to leave just yet. In a press conference documented by The Oregonian, Bundy said, "We need to make sure that the Hammonds are out of prison. We need to make sure that there is some teeth in these land transfers." On Jan. 7, Bundy met with Harney County Sheriff David Ward to discuss bringing the standoff to an end. The Sheriff offered to escort the ranchers safely out of the refuge, but Bundy declined. Bundy said, "Until we can see that there is a great momentum, and the people can [protect their rights] themselves, then we will remain."

The federal government has done little in response to the matter, leaving many to wonder why they have yet to intervene. Former FBI agents claim that the situation does not need intervening. Since there has been no violence, and the public is not in immediate danger, they have not had to step forward. In a report dated Jan. 12, The Oregonian quoted Danny Coulson, a former FBI agent, who said, "If you deny access and have to put a road block up and set up a perimeter, you know what that costs a day? Millions of dollars. And what do you accomplish? You'll likely raise the tension for something that's not going to help you." Federal power chooses not to complicate the matter as higher tensions could lead to a firefight. Instead, they opt to let the group do as they please. Coulson said, "They're exercising their First Amendment rights," so there is no reason to stop them.

Government teacher Mr. Ira Goldberg disagrees with the way the federal government has handled the situation. Goldberg said, "It is a clear issue of federalism and ultimately a situation in which federal authorities should step in to resolve the issue." He went on to explain how the problem resides in the government not taking a clear stance. Goldberg said, "The federal government should have been more decisive in making it known that federal property is in the domain of the federal government. It is not for a group of fringe activists to claim ownership to."

The militant group has continued to alter the refuge based on their views. They have covered up signs with their own and torn up fences that once kept the federal land divided. If the federal government continues to do nothing, the militants will continue to do as they please until the government cannot ignore them any longer.



Ammon Bundy speaks to an audience regarding his armed militia taking over in search of justice for the Hammonds.

Photos courtesy of Katun News and

## 4 THE SPECTATOR

# North Korea announces hydrogen bomb test; foreign powers skeptical

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

The isolated nation of North Korea announced on Jan. 5, 2016 that they successfully completed a test of a hydrogen bomb. Foreign powers doubt the legitimacy of this claim, but if true, this event would signal a rapid expansion in the nuclear arsenal of North Korea.

It is suspected that the blast was actually a failed test of what is called a boosted-fission bomb. More powerful than a regular nuclear weapon, but far less powerful than a hydrogen bomb, a boosted fission bomb is created by putting a very small amount of tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, into a normal nuclear core. "How could a thermonuclear blast trigger such a weak seismic signal? I agree with the suspicion that it was not a true H-bomb," Kenneth W. Ford, an American physicist who worked on the development of the first hydrogen bomb, told the New York Times on Jan. 6. It is believed that this is an unfounded claim by North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong-un, to bolster his nation's standing in the international community by establishing itself as a nuclear power.

The difference between a nuclear weapon and a hydrogen bomb is a key distinction. Normal nuclear bombs rely on fission to release energy. This is done by splitting the nucleus of an atom, usually atoms of uranium and plutonium. When the neutrons of an atom split, some hit the nuclei of other atoms, splitting them as well, creating a chain reaction. Both nuclear weapons used during wartime were nuclear bombs, dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States in 1945. While the destructive nature of these weapons is immense, as evidenced by the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hydrogen bombs are much more powerful.

Hydrogen bombs, also called thermonuclear bombs, add a chamber of hydrogen gas to the core of the weapon. When the atoms of uranium and plutonium split, they create an immense amount of energy, which causes the hydrogen to fuse into helium, similar to the process by which the sun creates energy.

To contextualize just how powerful these weapons are, the Union of Concerned Scientists, a U.S.-based science advocacy non-profit, details that the nuclear blasts which destroyed

Hiroshima and Nagasaki released energy equivalent to about 15 and 20 kilotons of TNT. A hydrogen bomb releases energy equivalent to about 10,000 kilotons of TNT. It is estimated that the bomb tested by North Korea released about 6 kilotons of energy, further calling into question the legitimacy of their claim.

The announcement marked the fourth nuclear test conducted by North Korea in the last nine years, each test drawing international backlash. The world's major powers rushed to condemn this action, including abnormally strong language from North Korea's closest ally, China. "China strongly opposes this act," Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said during a press conference shortly after the tests were announced, and added, "China will firmly push for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." The situation also placed strain on the relationship between the United States and China, as Secretary of State John Kerry criticized the tactics used by China to contain the North Korean nuclear program in a public address after corresponding with his Chinese counterpart over the phone. He called for the superpower to halt its economic support of North Korea.

Currently, the greatest threat posed by a North Korean nuclear arsenal is against South Korea. Both North and South Korea have sought reunification of the peninsula since the Korean War, but the North is the only one of the two with nuclear weapons. It is very unlikely that North Korea currently has the capability to threaten even the West Coast of the United States. That said, perhaps an even greater danger is posed to the people of North Korea, as the use of nuclear weapons on another nation would likely incur retaliatory strikes, probably by the United States and Japan, placing the lives of millions in danger. These recent events should not be taken as an indication of impending nuclear war, as it is improbable that Pyongyang will actually use their nuclear arsenal. In all likelihood, the announcement is just an attempt to bolster international recognition, and perhaps ignite diplomatic conflict between the United States and China.

## Glam rock king David Bowie dies at 69

Jordan McGee '16, Circulation Manager

David Bowie, an icon of reinvention, pop music, and style died just two days after his 69th birthday on Jan. 10. Bowie inspired pop artists like Madonna and Lady Gaga with his superb ambition. Out of his 27 studio albums, his greatest hits include, "Space Oddity," "Life on Mars?," "Ziggy Stardust," "Heroes," "Rebel Rebel," and "The Next Day," which have gained a resurgence of popularity following his death. Bowie's 27th studio album, *Blackstar*, was released two days before his death. The morning after the news circulated on Jan. 11, the album reached number one on iTunes.

For some individuals, a death of a favorite icon is like losing a part of their identity. Junior Josiah Cedo deeply respected Bowie and found that he helped him through difficult times in his life. "Bowie was more than just an inspiration, he was an idol," Cedo explained. "He wasn't afraid to be himself. He had his issues and struggles, but he overcame them all, and that speaks deeply to me." Cedo said that the song "Heroes" is what attracted him to Bowie's music and career. "Hearing [the song] for the first time gave me confidence that I needed at the time. I had to learn more about him," he added.

It is tragic when legends pass, but their music manages to touch people's hearts and will live on for countless years to come.

## Keep the sea plastic free

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Pollution is nothing new, especially to the world's ponds, lakes, rivers, and oceans, but recently a new form of pollution has been introduced to our waterways. This form of pollution stems from a significant number of personal care products such as facial/body scrubs and toothpastes that contain thousands of minuscule plastic balls called microplastics, or more specifically, microbeads.

Over the years, microbeads have replaced traditional, biodegradable alternatives like ground nut shells and salt crystals due to their low cost and fast manufacturing time. The microbeads used in personal care products are mainly made of different types of plastics. Every time someone uses a face scrub or brushes their teeth, thousands of polluting beads go down the drain and into the sewer system.

Microplastics are commonly measured at less than five millimeters. However, microbeads found in personal care products tend to be smaller than one millimeter. This is problematic because sewer systems are not programmed to detect such small pollutants, so not all waste water gets purified.

5Gyres, an American non-governmental organization, found a large number of microplastics in the Great Lakes. They estimate that one single care product, like a facial scrub, contains around 360,000 microbeads.

When the microbeads reach bodies of water, marine species are unable to distinguish between food and microplastics and therefore involuntarily feed on them. Around 35 percent of the fish that were examined in the Great Lakes had microplastics in their stomachs, according to 5Gyres. When asked about microplastics, junior Sarah Davis said, "We should ban microbeads because they're extremely bad for our ecosystem. Not only do they affect the fish, but they affect us."

Davis continued, "When we catch these fish filled with these microplastics, we don't clean out the beads and when we eat them, so we unconsciously eat them like the fish, causing us health problems. Not only that, there are so many natural alternatives to these beads; crushed apricot pits work as a better exfoliation than the plastic beads even."

As scientific understanding of the effects of microplastics on the environment continues to increase, the future of microplastics becomes an extremely important question to consider. Increasingly, sources and effects of microplastic pollution are being questioned and considered closely by scientists and policymakers alike.

To join the cause, look at the ingredients in self care products and discontinue use of any and all products that contain polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, or polymethyl methacrylate.

# A close look into the 2015 Spartans:

## A successful season once again

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

When it comes to college football, Michigan State is no joke. While they have had their share of struggles and have not always been the most successful program, they are beginning to stick out as one of the most elite teams in the country.

Although MSU has very strong athletic programs, their football team has grown above others. Whether it is their impressive recruiting classes, or their Hall of Fame bound coach, Mark Dantonio, Michigan State simply knows how to find a way to win. This season, MSU had their fair share of obstacles to overcome, but they still managed to have quite the year.

The 2015 season for the Spartans got off to a great start as they went 8-0, however, not all of those games were as simple to win as the record may indicate. On Oct. 17, State played their big time rival, the University of Michigan Wolverines in Ann Arbor with the Spartans first game against their head coach, Jim Harbaugh. Michigan had the lead with just seconds remaining, many thought the game was a wrap. However, a muffed snap on a punt led to a game winning MSU touchdown and as a result, many fans were left with priceless reactions throughout the Big House. "It was a great win for State because most of the game [Michigan] was in control," sophomore Jackson Schodowski said. The only time State led in that game was when the clock struck 0:00 in the 4th quarter, but at the end of the day a win is a win, and the Spartans headed back to East Lansing undefeated. From that point, the stage was set for senior quarterback Connor Cook to lead his team to a Big Ten Championship for a chance to play in the College Playoff.

The Spartans suffered their first loss on Nov. 7 against the Nebraska Cornhuskers which made fans across the nation very skeptical regarding whether this Michigan State team had what it takes to go all the way. However, the Spartans made up for that loss when they defeated the Ohio State Buckeyes as Coach Dantonio found a way without his star quarterback Connor Cook. With that win against the Buckeyes, State's destiny was in their own hands. Winning the next three games meant a chance to play in the Big Ten Championship, and the Spartans did just that.

At the Big Ten Championship in Indianapolis, they faced the undefeated Iowa Hawkeyes. As the game went down to just the final seconds, freshman LJ Scott capped off the victory with a last second touchdown leading the team to the second annual College Football Playoff, where they then faced off with the most winning program of the century, the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Although the Spartans were badly defeated by a final score of 38-0 against Alabama they had nothing to hang their heads for as it was still one of the most successful years in program history. "They made it to the playoffs," Schodowski said, "which is extremely successful." As the offseason begins, the team will look forward to having a tremendous season once again and will go after that ultimate goal: the National Championship.



Photo by Giacomo Cirrincione

# Carolina Panthers: the NFL's biggest surprise

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Much like their mascot, the Carolina Panthers have slyly crept their way to the top of the NFL this season. After week 17, the Panthers boasted a league best record of 15-1, meaning they entered the playoffs as the number one seed out of the NFC.

In the final week of the pre-season, the Panthers' star sophomore wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin went down with a season-ending ACL tear. After this crucial injury, many analysts became skeptical about the Panthers' chances at success this season, claiming that quarterback Cam Newton would not have anyone to throw to and would struggle because of this. Oh, how Newton proved them wrong.

Newton put the ailing Panthers on his back, racking up 4,473 all purpose yards and 45 total touchdowns. Newton also improved his Total Quarterback Rating (QBR), a statistic created to measure quarterback performance, 10 points from previous seasons. Senior and involved fantasy footballer Ryan Schilderout commented, "Picking Cam Newton was the best fantasy decision I have ever made," he continued, "He was the MVP of my team, and should be the MVP of the league." Newton's personal statistics were impressive, but what separated him from other NFL quarterbacks this season was his ability to make other players better.

After losing Kelvin Benjamin, the Panthers had to look for a new number one wide receiver. Ted Ginn Jr., nine year veteran and NFL journeyman who has jumped between four different teams, was thrust into the number one wide receiver role. In the eight previous seasons, Ginn recorded 11 total touchdowns. Since joining the Panthers, however, Ginn scored 10 touchdowns, nearly matching his career total. Once the Panthers proved that they were able to succeed in the passing game, it opened up the running game as well. Jonathan Stewart, who in past seasons has been a relatively mediocre running

back, rebounded this season, running for 989 yards and seven total touchdowns. Both of these players' impressive seasons are reflections of Newton's ability to attract defensive attention, making the players around him better.

While their offense was impressive, what separated the Panthers this season from the rest of the league was their defensive play. Their defense was anchored by inside linebacker Luke Kuechly and cornerback Josh Norman, both considered defensive player of the year candidates. They both contributed to a plus 20 turnover ratio, the best in the league. This allowed the Panthers to always be aggressive and keep opposing teams on their heels.

With the playoffs quickly approaching, everyone is anxious to see if the Panthers' Cinderella run will continue.

*"Newton's personal statistics were impressive, but what separated him from other NFL quarterbacks this season was his ability to make other players better."*

Photo by Flickr Nicholas Shwartz

## 6 THE SPECTATOR

# The 2014 NFL draft produces superstars at wide receiver

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

As the NFL regular season concludes and another year of exciting catches and touchdowns is added to the players statistics, some have proposed the possibility that the wide receiver draft class of 2014 will be the greatest of all time. The 1996 wide receiver draft class, which included all-time greats like Terrell Owens and Marvin Harrison, is finally beginning to be threatened of its title as the best wide receivers after 20 years at the top. This list indicates the top receivers of the draft class and their careers so far.

## 1. Odell Beckham:

At a clear number one in the draft class, OBJ is already looking like a future hall of famer. With arguably the best hands in the league, Odell Beckham has recorded 187 receptions with 25 touchdowns in just two seasons with the New York Giants. Beckham made the Pro Bowl his rookie year and is returning this season, and both years he was the only receiver from his draft class voted in.

## 2. Sammy Watkins:

Despite a slower start to the 2016 season, due to inconsistency at the quarterback position, Watkins finished the year averaging over 110 yards in his last six games. As the first wide receiver selected in the 2014 NFL Draft, Watkins has backed up his high selection with dominance as the go-to receiver for the Buffalo Bills.

## 3. Mike Evans:

Standing at 6'5" and 225 pounds, Mike Evans is a prime long ball and red zone target due to his sheer size and athleticism. This gives him a huge advantage over most of the league's defensive backs. With 15 touchdowns in two seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Evans' size will allow him to have further success and likely a career that will take him to Canton, Ohio to the football Hall of Fame.

## 4. Allen Robinson:

In only his second year in the league, Robinson was tied for the lead in receiving touchdowns at the end of the regular season, having caught 14. Robinson and his teammate and wide receiver Allen Hurns, have really established the Jacksonville Jaguars' passing offense. Hurns was also a member of the 2014 rookie class but was signed to the Jaguars as an undrafted rookie. The quarterback throwing to them, Blake Bortles, was also part of the 2014 draft class.

## 5. Kelvin Benjamin:

Despite being out the whole 2015-2016 regular season due to an ACL injury during the third week of the preseason, Benjamin's incredible rookie season still allows him to be in the top five of this draft class. Similar to Evans, Benjamin's size and athleticism establishes his role as Cam Newton's number one option.

Other notable receivers in the 2014 draft class include Jarvis Landry, John Brown, Martavis Bryant, Allen Hurns, Brandin Cooks, and Jordan Matthews.

## Big offseason could bring the Tigers back

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

In 2015, the Detroit Tigers missed the post season for the first time in five years, came in last place in their division, and General Manager Dave Dombrowski was released. With the promotion of Al Avila to General Manager, the organization made bold moves to try and put Motown back on top of the central division and in a run for the title.

The biggest issue last year was the pitching. The reconstruction of the pitching rotation began with signing the right handed starting pitcher Jordan Zimmermann. The 29-year-old has career 3.32 earned run average (ERA) according to ESPN.com and has been a consistent force in the league, which earned him a five year deal worth \$110 million. Zimmermann fits the Illitch 'win now' system during a small window opening. "Zimmerman is good starting pitcher. He can go late into games and doesn't give up many runs," senior Travis Hicks said. The downside to this signing is that Zimmermann is five years out from having Tommy John's surgery, and the speed of his fastball has noticeably declined. However, he learned to work off his secondary pitches from previous years earning him late wins in games for his last team, the Washington Nationals.

Before the winter meetings, the Tigers acquired a sound closer in Francisco Rodriguez (K-Rod) from the Milwaukee Brewers in a trade. MLB.com posted that the 33-year-old had a 2.89 ERA in 81 saves over the past two seasons, cementing him as an elite closer and veteran leader within the league. Last year, Rodriguez held the best groundball rates of his career with 46.4 percent, and though he cannot overpower hitters anymore, Rodriguez has gained much control over all of his pitches. According to ESPN.com, K-Rod still lives by his name, striking out 27.7 percent of hitters since 2014 and has only walked 6 percent of batters who have faced him. The downside to this trade is the money and losing a talented second basemen in Javier Betancourt. Rodriguez is a high profile player, so obviously the Tigers would have to give up something good to obtain his talents. The Tigers traded second basemen Betancourt, who has potential to become

a very good defensive player, and an unnamed player from the Tigers farm system. Since that time, the Tigers also signed another starting pitcher, Mike Pelfrey, along with two more relief pitchers, Mark Lowe and Justin Wilson. "The pitching staff is better now. I feel confident in our bullpen on and off paper," Hicks continued, "these guys have a good history and have shown they can protect teams lead late."

The leftfield position was officially taken on Jan. 19 by Justin Upton. Upton was acquired for six years, costing the Tigers \$22.125 million. Upton's batting average was .251 last season, but he hit 26 homeruns for his former team, the San Diego Padres. The addition of Upton adds depth to the roster and a defensive presence to leftfield.

This offseason has brought about huge changes within the organization. "The window to win is closing fast," Hicks stated. "The win now theory needs to take form on the field for the Tigers this year."



Expect some new faces when the Tigers line up on Opening Day 2016 in Miami against the Marlins.

# BUY A PARKING PASS YOU FOOLS:

## THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF GETTING TO BERKLEY HIGH IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

Whether or not you have a car, every student can attest to the fact that the morning traffic and parking lot situation is getting out of hand. Something as simple as getting to school has turned into a process that involves careful timing and precision.

### GETTING UP IN THE MORNING:

While this may seem like the simplest step, deciding whether or not to shower is a key factor in determining when you will have to wake up. People who want a hearty breakfast will have to wake up closer to 6 a.m. Those who want to maximize their sleep will snooze until 7:20 a.m., and bring a snack or granola bar to their first hour or just not eat breakfast at all. The time you wake up is especially important when considering the amount of traffic you are willing to face, what time you want to arrive at school, if you want to have a parking spot close to school, or if you are okay with being late or not.

### PLANNING A ROUTE:

By far, the worst aspect of driving to school is dealing with the main student parking lot off of Sunnyknoll. First of all, the parking lot is not big enough to accommodate nearly all of the students that drive to school. Even if you have a parking pass, there is a good chance that someone without one will take your spot. There is a big need for proper regulation of those who do not have parking passes. It is not fair to everyone who has purchased a parking pass to have to worry about finding a spot in the main lot. Possible solutions could be having specific parking spaces assigned when passes are given out or having a less desirable lot for people without passes. Increased lot space for parking at BHS also needs to be addressed.

### THE DREADED PARKING LOT:

BHS has a diverse student body coming from Berkley, Huntington Woods, Ferndale, Oak Park, Southfield, and other are. While traveling to school, you will most likely have to encounter 11 mile, Catalpa (a two lane street), Coolidge, or Sunnyknoll, and the impending craziness that arises on all of these streets. While there are signs that read no stopping or standing, parents constantly disobey the signs when dropping off their kids and this causes congestion on already busy roads. This daily scenario could possibly be improved by constructing a designated drop off zone. Finally, when leaving their house, one must plan to stand in traffic for at least five to seven minutes.



The parking lot is a mess and the congestion needs to be phased out in order to make getting to school and parking more tolerable for all involved. Possible plans for more or bigger parking lots should be strongly considered. In addition to policy issued by the school itself, people need to buy a gosh darn parking pass. It is not that hard of a concept.

## BONELESS WINGS: FANTASTIC INNOVATION OR OVER-GLORIFIED CHICKEN NUGGET?

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

At BHS, students have the privilege of being able to go out to lunch with enough time to choose where they want to go with very little limitations. Buffalo Wild Wings recently became a viable option for students when it moved from Ferndale to downtown Royal Oak. Not only did the change in location help with providing another lunch option for students, but a new deal was discovered that would change the landscape of high school lunch for years to come: Boneless Thursday.

This promotion sparked a euphoria among students, as it made the most popular menu selection at Buffalo Wild Wings, the boneless wings, an actually affordable option for most high schoolers at just 70 cents per wing.

However, there are some skeptics at BHS with a criticism of the boneless wings that holds some water—are they any different than ordinary chicken nuggets from a fast-food chain? Sophomore Jackson Schodowski has an objective approach to the matter, as he said, “If you take away the bone from a chicken wing, it’s not a chicken wing anymore.”

Many students combat this point, claiming the quality of the chicken in boneless wings is better than that of chicken nuggets. “[Boneless wings] have more flavor.

They’re way better than fast food [chicken nuggets],” sophomore Morgan McGaughey said.

So, has the reputation of the boneless wings grown too much to the point where they may be overrated? In a recent Twitter poll, 56 percent of respondents disagree, claiming that the quality of the boneless wings is better than that of regular chicken nuggets. In reality, even those who suggest that the boneless wings are just over-glorified chicken nuggets still eat the wings often. Apparently, being similar to a chicken nugget is not necessarily a bad thing. For some students, weekly boneless wings is a necessity, as junior Lauren Murray said, “[Boneless wings] are life changing,” and a majority of students echo her thoughts.

Certainly with all of the options students have for lunch, Buffalo Wild Wings has monopolized Thursdays for now, and for at least the foreseeable future. It is obvious that whether they are just like mere chicken nuggets or an extraordinary revelation, students love them and keep coming back for more.



## 8 THE SPECTATOR

# ESCAPING BERKLEY:

## STUDENTS TRAVEL TO EXOTIC DESTINATIONS OVER BREAK

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

Over the past holiday break, a number of BHS students went to some breathtaking destinations for their winter vacation to de-stress and get their minds off of the upcoming semester finals. While most people take time off to hang around and binge watch on Netflix, these few students got to visit some pretty cool places.

### AUSTRIA

Instead of taking the usual trip down to sunny Florida, junior Emily Findling and her family took a nine day trip to beautiful, snowy Austria to ski and snowboard down the mountains.

**Favorite part:** "The whole trip was unreal; I cannot explain how beautiful the mountains were. Even the food was inexplicably delicious."

**Coollest thing:** "Definitely being able to travel to different countries in Europe in a short period of time. Everything was just so different that there wasn't one thing that wasn't remotely cool."



### ISRAEL

Senior Kenzie Newman spent twelve days connecting with her religion in Israel. "It felt so awesome to be closer to my religion. I've spent years learning about this place, and I finally got to experience it," she said.

**Favorite part:** "The Dead Sea and Masada were my favorite parts of the trip. It was just so cool and lively; it was like nothing I have ever experienced before. That's what made my trip so great."

**Coollest thing:** "Just being in Israel itself was very cool. I cannot wait until I get to go back again."



### ARGENTINA

Down to Buenos Aires, senior Gwen Wibbelman and her family took an adventurous trip for their holiday vacation. She said, "Although the adjustment was a bit difficult, it was pretty exciting to be able to interact with the locals there. I bought some pretty overpriced, yet cool trinkets along the way!"

**Favorite part:** "Kayaking, horseback riding, and hiking along this beautiful mountain range in a city called Barlouches."

**Coollest thing:** "Hanging out with the locals, and learning about their culture. Did you know that they eat dinner around 10 o'clock? Weird, right?"



### SOUTH AFRICA

Senior Jordan Zimmerman spent a wild week and a half long break in the extraordinary coast of South Africa. After the 17-hour plane ride, Zimmerman explained how incredible the scenery was.

**Favorite part:** "Definitely visiting kids living in extreme poverty and giving them something to smile about. Most of them spoke English because they were bilingual, so it was easy to communicate with them."

**Coollest thing:** "I got the opportunity to hike part of Table Mountain, which is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It is by far one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen and probably will ever see."



These students took some fun filled time off to become more diverse and cultured across the world. It is really cool how students get the opportunities to experience different parts of the globe especially during our brutal midwest winter. If anyone is thinking of flying down to Argentina, Austria, Israel, or South Africa, hit these students up; I am sure they would be happy to share their adventures with their fellow peers.



# Teacher in training:

## From the lecture hall to the front of the class

Jordan McGee '16, Circulation Manager

Bright young minds sit impatiently in their classes in high school. They are not impressed with the way they are taught, nor are they bothered by the rude behavior of their fellow classmates towards the teacher. The students wish to make a difference in the classroom someday, wanting to nurture the minds of future young students using methods that they did not offer experience. They feel like they are ready to become a teacher.

The ambition is flowing from their veins, similar to most young adults. However, they are preparing themselves for the roller coaster of student teaching. Student teaching is required to gain teaching experience. They are not given the complete power of a teacher, but they are still able to alter a child's education permanently. This is exactly what student teacher Mr. Jacob Mell had in mind.

Mell is the student teacher for Mrs. Marilyn Isabell's Spanish class and Mrs. Natalie Konwinski's geometry class. A graduate from Michigan State University, he was required to take a placement class in a high school equivalency program where he helped migrant workers get their high school diplomas during his second year of college. During his junior and senior year, Mell worked at a middle school, and was required to have two to four hours clocked teaching math and Spanish during every week of the semester. Mell would watch and observe and get an idea of what it is like as a teacher;

"It's like having a second teacher, so if someone is struggling, [he] can help them out when the primary teacher is unavailable."

that is still, however, a completely different experience than being a student. Not only did Mell have to observe teachers, he explained, "I also studied abroad where I taught English and math in Spanish to students in Peru."

His well-rounded experiences in college prepared him as well as it could to officially student teach, a position that allows him to be completely hands-on in the classroom. Mell is unique in that he is a student teacher for both math and Spanish. "[Math and Spanish] are very different, but are also very similar," Mell described. "Math is very structured while Spanish is open to interpretation; [both] lesson plans are based off of students' strengths and weaknesses." For Mell, both of the teachers he is working with are completely different, but bring equally positive attributes to his future teaching skills. "They help me feel more comfortable with the routines in the classroom," Mell clarified. Math student and senior Brooke Woolrey said, "It's like having a second teacher, so if someone is struggling, [he] can help them out when the primary teacher is unavailable."

For inspiring college students who wish to nurture the education of young minds, student teaching is naturally part of the profession. Every student teaching experience is different, but the experience is rewarding regardless.



Photo by Katie Cross

## Students shop local, businesses boom

Sloan Elie '18, Entertainment Editor

As many know, the stock market crashed in 2008, and it hit Metro Detroit hard. Yet, eight years later, small businesses have been popping up and thriving all over the downtown area, especially downtown Royal Oak. Out of the 85 boutiques, salons, and retail shops in the area, a few businesses in particular really stand out of the crowd.

For 17 years, the family operated store Funky 7 has been one of the most popular shops for locals to buy Detroit apparel. The store carries only high quality T-shirts with retro designs. However, Funky 7 has not always carried their signature style. Owner Clay Davis said, "My dad had been in Royal Oak for about 30 years, and [Funky 7] was originally a men's clothing store carrying suits, ties, and outerwear type goods." Davis continued, "Around eight to ten years ago, he started carrying the sports teams, and around five to seven years ago the whole Detroit niche really took off."

Just down the street from Funky 7, the clothing store Pitaya stands. The first Pitaya opened in 1990 in Bloomington, Indiana and now has over 15 locations across the country, and four of them are in Michigan. Although it has multiple locations, Pitaya has taken Royal Oak by storm and has claimed many of the closets at BHS. Sophomore Lily Franklin said, "I love Pitaya; they have great clothes, and they have stuff that fits everyone's style." Along with their great prices, Pitaya also sews all their labeled clothes in the United States, making it a great way to create and save American jobs.

In terms of a relaxing joint, Goldfish Tea was the go-to tea room in all of Royal Oak. With a laidback atmosphere, good quality beverages, and emotional open mic nights, the one of a kind experience one gets in this tea room is unforgettable. Goldfish Tea positively affected people all over Michigan, and even though it was a successful business, on Jan. 1 at 2:53 p.m., store owners Jim and Janice Girling announced the closing of their beloved shop in a Facebook post, and said, "It is time for us to move on to new adventures."

Freshman Lila Tudrick said, "I loved Goldfish Tea, and I am devastated that they are closing. I used to go and study there with my friends for hours at a time, and now I have nowhere to study."

It is no secret that downtown Royal Oak has some of the best shops in Metro Detroit. Small business establishments like Funky 7, Pitaya, and Goldfish Tea only add to the city's originality. Small businesses are important to a city's culture, so do them a favor and shop local.



Photos by Katie Cross

# 2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

It's easy to view 2015 as a year of catastrophe—the expansion of ISIS, the refugee crisis, several devastating terrorist attacks, and economic instability in Europe shook the world. But the year was equally marked by messages of hope, of love, and of a bright future. The disasters of 2015 certainly deserve to be recognized and commemorated, but the positives of the year should not fall by the wayside. 2015 was an important year in many ways, and reflecting upon its impacts on the world at large serves to guide us toward a hopeful future.

## June 26:

### United States Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage

With a 5-to-4 vote in the case of *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, the Supreme Court of the United States voted to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide on June 26, 2015. This was a major victory in the field of gay rights, a movement which has strived for equal status before the law for decades. In the majority decision, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote, “No longer may this liberty be denied. No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than they were before.” Hundreds of couples flocked to the courthouses during the following weekend to obtain marriage licenses. Although the decision was met with some resistance, polls taken after the decision was handed down indicated that most American approved of legalization of same-sex marriage. The most notable occurrence of resistance to the ruling was in the case of Kim Davis, a court clerk in Kentucky who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and was imprisoned as a result. President Obama put words to the thoughts of many when he said, “Today, we can say, in no uncertain terms, that we have made our union a little more perfect.”



Photos (from left to right) courtesy of Courtesy of the Independent, Gage Skidmore, Peter Badge, Tom Beetz on Flickr, Eric Weaver, Ted Eytan on Flickr, Sandro Schroeder, and Petros Giannakouris

## FEATURE

## June 30:

### Cuba eradicates transmission of mother-to-child HIV and syphilis

2015 brought with it an astounding development in the field of medical science. On June 30, 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO), validated that Cuba is now the first nation in the world to eradicate the transmission of HIV and syphilis from a mother to a child. If untreated, there is between a 15-45 percent chance that any of the 1.4 million pregnant women infected with HIV will transmit the disease to their child. With antiretroviral drugs, however, these chances drops to below 1 percent. Cuba has long been noted and praised for their advanced health system, which contains more doctors per capita than any other nation in the world. Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, the director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the chapter of the WHO operating in the Americas, said shortly after the validation was announced, “Cuba’s achievement today provides inspiration for other countries to advance towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.” As it is impossible to be completely sure that the diseases will not transfer, eradication in this case does not mean it is completely eliminated, but rather it is so unlikely that it does not pose a public health threat. Even still, this feat of medical science places Cuba at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS, syphilis, and other infectious diseases which plague the world.



## Sept. 2:

### Photo of lifeless three-year-old Syrian refugee goes viral, brings crisis to the world's attention

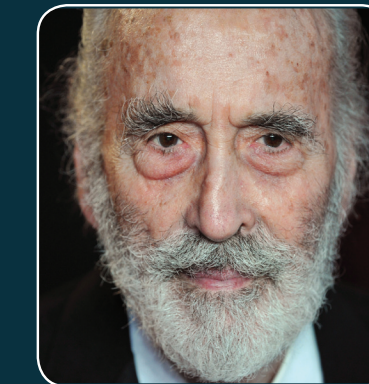
On Sept. 2, the body of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian refugee washed ashore after he drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The photo of him lying lifeless in the sand struck a chord with people around the world, bringing the realities of the Syrian Refugee Crisis to the forefront of the public's attention. Thousands of others have been killed while fleeing the Syrian Civil War, and millions other have been driven from their homes. Since the start of the civil war four years ago, over half the population of Syria, in excess of 11 million people, have been driven from their homes, 4 million of whom were driven from Syria altogether. Most of those forced out of the country now seek refuge in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq. Others try to enter Europe, but are met with opposition from border nations, leaving no other option than to try and enter Europe illegally, as was the case with Aylan Kurdi and his family. Not all nations were unwelcoming, however, as Germany resettled over one million refugees in 2015 and pledge to settle hundreds of thousands more in the coming years. These events and others related to it drew worldwide attention to the cause of the crisis, the Syrian Civil War, where conflict between the government of Bashar al-Assad and anti-government rebels has been flaring for four years. Peace negotiations are set to commence in early 2016, but the crisis continues to place strain on the world and endanger the lives of millions of Syrians.



## Nov. 12/13:

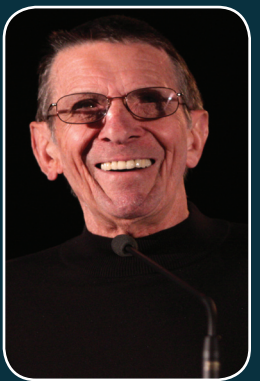
### Terror attacks in Beirut, Paris claim the lives of 170

On the 12th and 13th of November, members of the terror organization Daesh (also known as ISIS, ISIL, and Islamic State) carried out coordinated attacks in the capital cities of Beirut, Lebanon and Paris, France. On Nov. 12, two suicide bombers detonated explosives in Bourj el-Barajneh, a Shiite-majority suburb of Lebanon, killing 43 people. This attack was the worst on Lebanese soil since the end of their civil war in 1990, when the country was embroiled in conflict. The following day, suicide bombing and mass shootings occurred in Paris, France, killing 130 people. The attacks included bombings at the Stade de France, the city's largest stadium, and shootings at the Bataclan Theatre, which killed 89 hostages before police forces killed the attackers. Like the attack in Beirut, this was the worst attack perpetrated on French soil since the end of World War II, and brought with it the declaration of a National State of Emergency and increased airstrikes against Daesh targets in Iraq and Syria. These attacks came just 12 days after the bombing of a Russian commercial airplane over the Sinai Peninsula killed 224 people, for which Daesh also claimed credit. The world was left reeling after these attacks, but soon after came together in solidarity with the victims. Many of the world's most famous monuments were lit up in the blue, white, and red of the Republic of France, even when the City of Lights went dark.



Sir Christopher Lee was among the most prolific actors of recent times, holding 278 screen credits to his name. Most famous for his roles as Count Dooku in the Star Wars series and Saruman in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies, Lee's career spanned almost 70 years. He fought in World War II, was fluent in both Italian and German, can trace his lineage to Charlemagne, and released a heavy metal album the day he turned 92. Sir Christopher Lee died of respiratory problems and heart failure at the age of 93 on June 7, 2015.

Leonard Nimoy was an accredited actor, director, author, and photographer. He was most well known for his role as Mr. Spock in the Star Trek franchise. Nimoy's life was closely entwined with the character of Spock, as evidenced in the titles of his two autobiographies, *I Am Not Spock* (1975) and *I Am Spock* (1995). Shortly after Nimoy's death, President Obama described him as “a lifelong lover of the arts and humanities, a supporter of the sciences, generous with his talent and time.” Nimoy will be remembered for his contributions to entertainment and for bringing science to the forefront of society. Leonard Nimoy died of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease at the age of 83 on Feb. 27, 2015.



John Forbes Nash Jr. was a mathematician whose ideas made significant contributions to fields as diverse as economics, evolutionary biology, politics, and military theory. He struggled with paranoid schizophrenia for much of his early life, while making a slow recovery in the mid 1980s. Nash's life story was brought the attention of the public by Sylvia Nasar in her biography *A Beautiful Mind*, and by a film of the same name starring Russell Crowe, which won four Academy Awards. He was awarded the 1994 Nobel Prize for Economics for his role in the advancement of game theory, a field of economic theory that focuses on logic and interaction between logical beings. John Nash was killed in a car crash at the age of 86 on May 23, 2015.

B.B. King was a Blues singer and guitarist, often considered one of the greatest of all time, earning him the nickname “The King of Blues.” King was ranked 6th on Rolling Stone's Top 100 Guitarists of All Time in 2011 and would make cameo appearances on popular television shows, such as *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* and *Sesame Street*. He was a famously hard-working performer, often playing over 200 shows a year, even well into his 70s. B.B. King died of complication to Alzheimer's Disease and heart failure at the age of 89 on May 14, 2015.



2015 was a year with a lot of very visible destruction. While it may seem like the end of the world is imminent, there are a good deal of unsung positives as well. Since 1990, the number of people living in extreme poverty has halved, with more than a billion more people now living on more than \$1.25 a day. In that same time frame, global literacy among children rose from 83 percent to 91 percent, rates of hunger and malnourishment dropped from 23 percent to under 13 percent, and global childhood mortality has more than halved, all according to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. There is a lot that needs to be fixed with the world, but the future is not as bleak as it may seem.

## 12 THE SPECTATOR

## I lived like DJ Khaled for a day

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

Oct. 22 is known for a lot of historical events. For instance, the first commercial flight from continental United States to Hawaii occurred on that date in 1936. The Cuban Missile Crisis began on this day in 1962 when President Kennedy created a navy blockade. Hurricane Sandy formed in the Caribbean in 2012. But most importantly, on this day in 2015 DJ Khaled created his famous Snapchat “djkhale305.”

Many people are now familiar with Khaled’s sayings such as “bless up,” “lion order,” and “follow me on a journey to success,” but few have actually adhered to his words of wisdom. Therefore, I decided to spend my Sunday solely following Khaled’s expressed philosophical views. So, come follow me on a journey of my success.

I woke up around nine in the morning to the sweet sound of Khaled’s most popular song, “*All I Do Is Win*.” Needless to say, I was already inspired.

I got up out of bed and went downstairs for breakfast (a major key in Khaled’s path to success). I decided to make French toast and have some fruit on the side. It was delicious. I was sure to have water with it, and take vitamins just as Khaled does, but it wasn’t anything special.

After breakfast, I needed to shower, so I did exactly as he does. I used Dove bar soap. As Khaled says, a clean face and a clean heart leads to more wins, and boy did I have a clean face. I can’t wait to see what I win!

After getting out of the shower, I used Dove deodorant, Palmer’s cocoa butter, and listerine. In his Snapchats, Khaled rubs the cocoa butter everywhere, so I knew what I had to do, and I reluctantly put it on my face and everywhere else. It took about ten minutes—something I wouldn’t spend time doing again out of laziness.

When I was done getting ready for the day, I went to take care of my plants similarly to DJ Khaled. Considering the

fact that it is the dead of winter, I could not tend to my garden, so I stuck with my cactus in my room. Khaled commonly mentions how important it is to name one’s plants. I decided on naming mine Bert. I (over) watered Bert just as Khaled would have, while simultaneously chanting “Lion order!”

Khaled also makes it a priority to spend time each day in a hammock, but given the fact that it is January and my hammock was up in my attic with my other camping stuff, I just looked at pictures of me in my hammock. It was nice.

After looking at my hammocking pictures and watering my plant, wait, I mean Bert, I sat down and thought about life, just like Khaled would. In my head, I kept repeating Khaled’s most common phrases and slowly analyzed them to understand what they really mean. I realized that “bless up” really means something like “pass me my fifth piece of pizza; I don’t care if it gives me heartburn.” I also realized that “[green apple] ciroc” really means “This is such a good time; let’s go jet skiing even though it’s pitch black outside.” Thinking back on Khaled’s past experiences really helped me realize the truth behind his sayings.

Then, after following Khaled’s major steps to success, I did exactly as Khaled would do, I rewarded myself. While Khaled would have gone out and danced or gone on a late night jet ski ride, I decided to stay in and watch seven episodes of *Scandal*. Best. Reward. Ever.

Overall, I would say that even though Khaled looks insane when he conveys his messages over Snapchat, he does have a point in most of what he does; to live your life to the fullest.

So, bless up and follow Khaled on a journey to success just as I did. Thank you, DJ Khaled, thank you.



Photos courtesy of Eve Sherman, Becca Tanner, Selena Horsley and the NWG Team

## Food pantries show extreme growth, help those in need

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

Many lives are constantly at risk throughout the world due to shortage of food that individuals are experiencing in their everyday routines. People are left hungry as their income levels or living situations do not allow them to walk through a “normal” grocery store and purchase food.

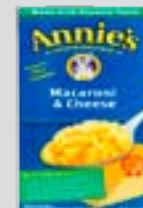
Neighbors, friends, and family are often in a food shortage, even if it may not always appear that way. According to the Huffington Post, one in every four children does not know where their next meal will come from. As an effort to prevent this, several organizations exist around the nation to try to ensure that these individuals do not go hungry.

Detroit is home to hundreds of food banks for those in need, such as Gleaners and Second Harvest. Religious groupings like Yad Ezra also hold food drives throughout the year. However, one of the most unique food resources the nation has to offer are food pantries. These pantries differ from food banks in that they give the full experience of grocery shopping to those in need. It is the same experience that the average middle class person would get when walking into a grocery store or a farmers market as they are given a shopping cart and have the opportunity to pick items off of the shelves.

There are several food pantries in Oakland County such as Witz

Community Services or the Open Hands Food pantry, both of which are located in Detroit. “I volunteered at a food bank where people with mental illness or those who need extra care can come in and get food for no cost,” junior Joey Berlin said. Berlin continued, “It was a great experience that I plan on doing in the near future.” Although each food pantry does it differently, the majority of them have families that are in need sign up for a program. “It helps a lot with people who are embarrassed to show that they have food stamps,” junior Paige Allen said. This program that allows them to go to a “grocery store,” grab a shopping cart, and simply purchase what is needed for their loved ones, but just with one exception—everything is free. The pantries have hours throughout the day similar to any grocery store, and only people with a membership are allowed into the store, making it so that only the individuals that truly need the assistance are the ones to whom it is being given.

Donations made can go a lot further than simply being placed on the shelves, and while a donation of a can of soup for a local food drive may seem like nothing, it can help to feed a family that is deeply in need of basic supplies. Contact any Gleaners food bank, place of worship or local food pantry to donate or volunteer. Also, be on the lookout for local food drives around the community.



# A look into the “Humans of New York”

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

You are one in 7 billion. 7 billion is a huge number, but there are 7 billion life stories that go along with that large amount of people. Photographer and author Brandon Stanton took that idea, the idea that everyone has a story, and has given people a chance to share theirs with the world. Person by person and story by story, Stanton is working to make the global community a smaller and more cohesive place.

Stanton started off his career trading stocks, but when that did not work out, he headed to the great New York City with camera in tow. Stanton started accumulating pictures of random people on the street, with their permission, while asking them to share a part of his/her life with him. Soon he started uploading it to a blog, where it was met with huge popularity. Now people are able to get a glimpse into the lives of others with whom they share this planet. “Whether the story is long, devastating, short, or upbeat, Humans of New York has created a network of people who can sometimes connect and relate to someone they’ve only seen a picture of and read part of their story,” senior Abbie Baker said.

When the blog was successful, he took to other mediums of social media. Currently, he has over four million followers on Instagram, 382 thousand followers on Twitter, and over 16 million likes on his Facebook page. With such a wide audience taking interest in his

work, Stanton created a book with all of his subjects and their stories.

Both overseas and nationwide, Stanton, with the help of his Humans of New York community, has brought, and will continue to bring change. Whether it is raising money for a school in New York City or helping Syrian refugees gain admission to America, Stanton has left a positive impact. He is able to raise money through all of his followers by posting links on his accounts, and he even had over a million people sign a petition so a Syrian women would be allowed into America.

Not only have many people become immersed in the Humans of New York community, but it has expanded worldwide. Stanton started to interview Syrian refugees and had his followers view their stories so that people are able to be more empathetic into those around the world. Whenever Stanton goes overseas, he never fails to post multiple stories of those he has come in contact. Through reading about the hardships that other people endure, people in America are able to gain an understanding of how fortunate we are to be living in such a safe country.

What started as simply Stanton’s passion for photography has turned into so much more. He has used social media, his talent for writing, and photography skills to make the global community smaller and more understanding, one story at a time.



A few of the pictures Stanton has taken throughout his journey to uncover the faces of humanity.

# 100 years of Frank Sinatra and his legacy

Adison Kaiser '18, Assistant Photo Editor

Dec. 12 marked the 100th birthday of the man who American music critic Robert Christgau considered the “greatest singer of the 20th century,” Frank Sinatra. Sinatra has achieved a lot with his talent, from producing music to acting.

“I think the singers of Frank Sinatra’s time are not at all how we deal with singers now, singers now are more about marketable personality, not an incredible talent,” Choir Director Ms. Julie Ann Smith said. Sinatra was someone with true talent, and had a true love for making art. He achieved a lot of things in his lifetime and he still is to this day, with everything he has created.

Sinatra’s musical career started with musicians and bandleaders Harry James and Tommy Dorsey in the swing era, between 1935 and 1946, in a time when jazz bands and orchestras dominated music charts. As his music became popular, he found success in a solo career and was signed by Columbia Records in 1946, and by March, Sinatra came out with his first album *The Voice of Frank Sinatra*.

In the 1950s, Sinatra traveled to Las Vegas, where he became one of the actors in the legendary group of actors known as the Rat Pack. His acting career hit a climax when the film *From Here to Eternity* came out in August of 1953; this earned him the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

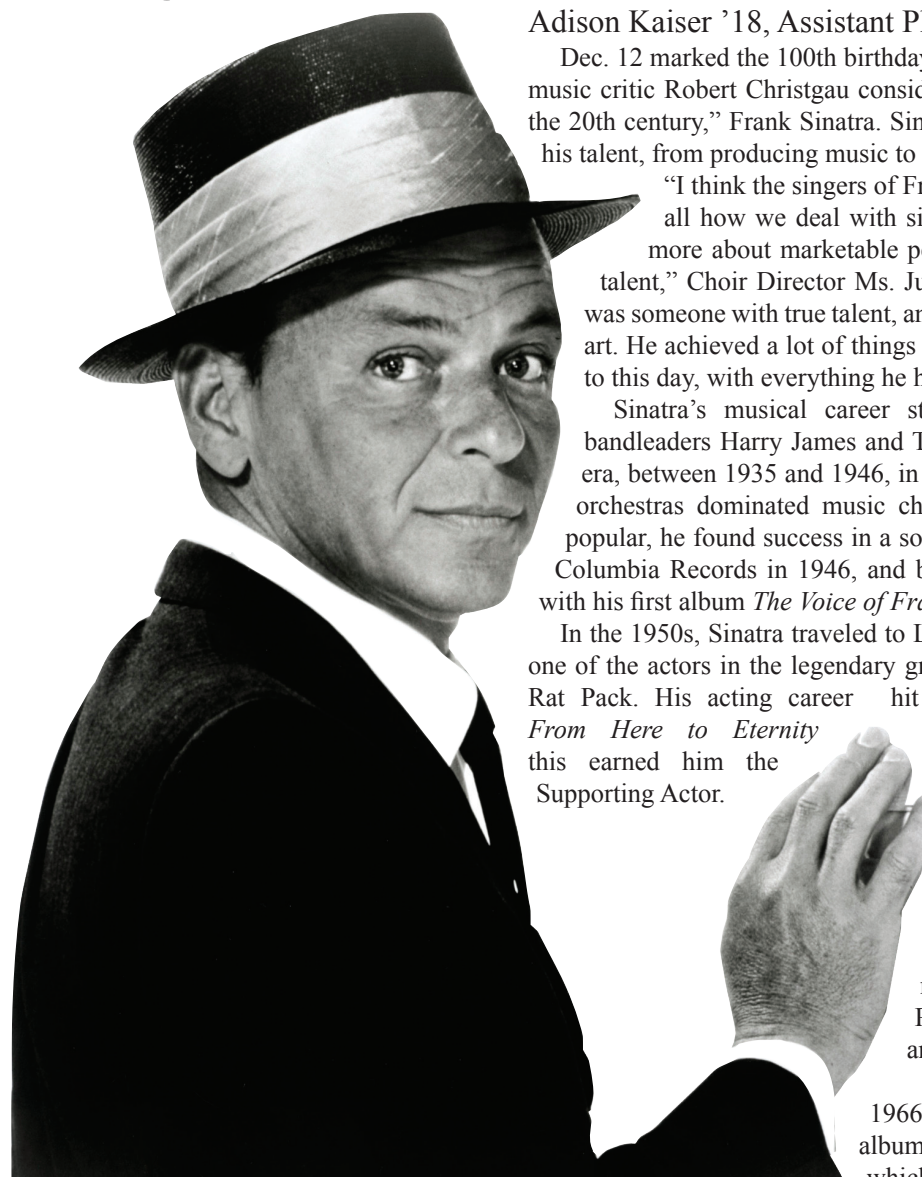
In 1961, Sinatra made his own record company called Reprise Records, which released multiple successful albums and music by stars Elvis Presley, Paul Simon, The Beatles, and many more.

In the beginning of 1966, Sinatra came out with the album *September of My Years* which was spotlighted in the


Emmy-winning television special *Frank Sinatra: A Man and His Music*. After a successful career with collaborations with other artists, Sinatra retired in 1971, but returned two years later and recorded several albums and continued to perform as a singer at Caesars Palace. With the help of his Las Vegas shows, Sinatra gained popularity and toured both in the U.S. and internationally until shortly before his death on May 14, 1998.

Frank Sinatra has been honored since the beginning of his career. He was big in his time and still is a legend to this day. “He has a really clean and spiritual voice; it puts you in a place that makes you feel like you’re at a fancy Italian restaurant,” sophomore Abbie Nash said.


His music will always be known for its classy and jazzy sound, and he will be known for his talent.



**CONNECT**



**FACEBOOK**  
[www.fb.com/  
BerkleySchools](http://www.fb.com/BerkleySchools)



**TWITTER**  
[@BerkleySchools](https://twitter.com/BerkleySchools)




**YOUTUBE**  
[www.youtube.com/  
user/BerkleySchools](http://www.youtube.com/user/BerkleySchools)

**G. Michael Kabot, D.D.S., M.S.**

*Practice Limited to Orthodontics  
Dentofacial and Functional Orthopedics  
Children and Adults  
[www.kabodontics.com](http://www.kabodontics.com)*

Oak Professional Centre  
655 W. 14 Mile Rd., Ste. 200  
Clawson, Michigan 48017  
Ph.: 248-280-2944  
Fax: 248-280-0822

Farmington Oaks Apt. Drive  
21890 Farmington Road  
Farmington, MI 48336  
Ph.: 248-888-1252  
Fax: 248-888-1255

  
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS

# The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of January

## Throwbacks

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

There is nothing better than driving in a car and hearing the number one hit from 2010 on the radio of which you, of course, still know every single word. Or that feeling when you're flipping through the channels (or Netflix suggestions) on a lazy day and a movie that you know you loved, but really don't remember what it is about, pops up. Throwbacks are more than just songs and movies, they are a reminder of the happy memories from a stage in our lives. Senior Austen Wood said, "I love throwbacks because they're basically the OGs." New music and movies are great, but there's something special about screaming every word to that Sean Kingston song from elementary school, trying desperately to remember the dance moves to the Hoedown Throw Down, or surprising yourself by being able to quote *High School Musical*. Throwbacks allow us to reminisce about our childhood that goes by far too quickly, and even give us the chance to stay a child a little while longer.

## Google Play

Jordan McGee '16, Circulation Managet

Google Play is the unfortunate equivalent to Apple's App Store but for Android devices and computers. For those not on the iPhone bandwagon, users are now able to use Google Music's family plan, which was released shortly after Apple Music introduced a similar plan. According to Dan Reilly on Fortune Online, the main drawback to Google Music is that, "Users can only skip a handful of songs in a given time period, aren't told which tracks are coming up next, and the personalized stations take a little bit of trial and error to match your tastes." It seems like if the user has an option, which Android users will now be able to, they should stick to Apple Music. "Android phones usually have to wait for music features and apps that iPhones already have," senior Alison Koch stated. The Google Play music does not integrate well with Mac users, making it a deal breaker for total integration on all devices. The service still needs to be tweaked before being considered worth paying for.

## Stephen Curry

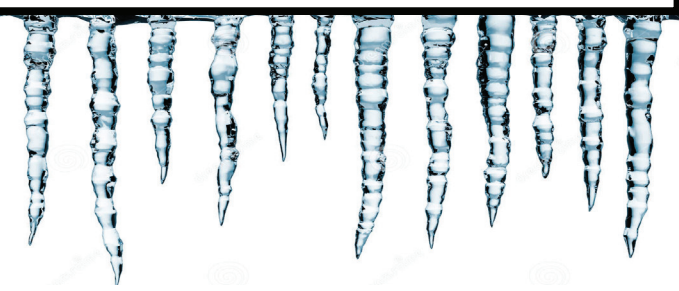
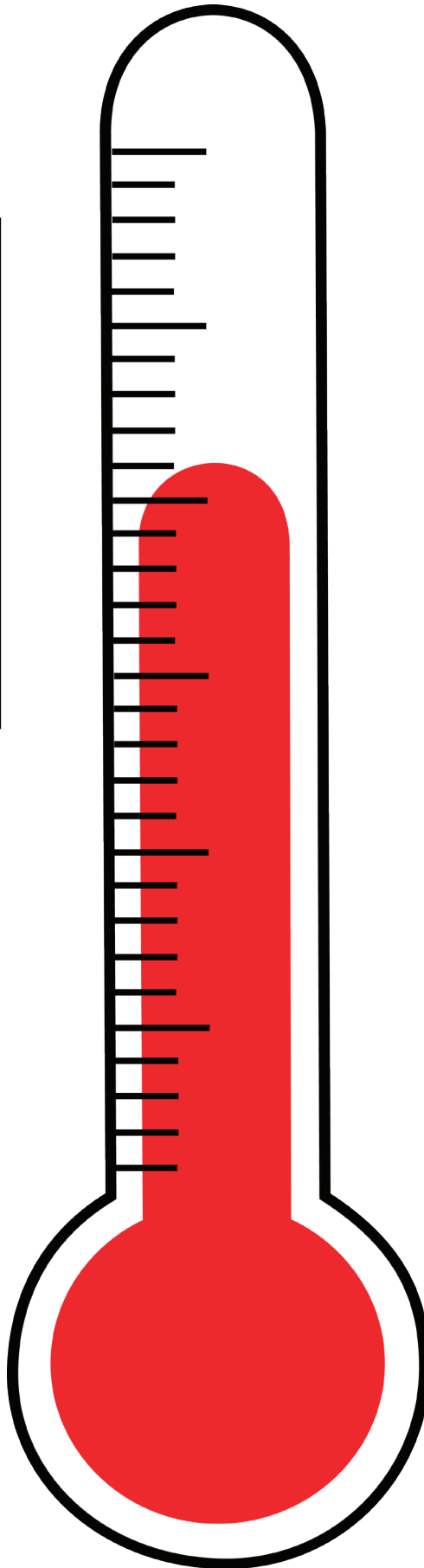
Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Over the last season and a half, NBA fans learned that Stephen Curry does not miss jump shots. Curry's smooth shot, close handle, and knack for finding the right pass led him to last year's MVP award and his team, the Golden State Warriors, to an NBA championship. Clearly, Curry's play is breathtaking, but the most amazing part of his rise has been his humbleness and relaxed personality. Instead of being overly selfish and attention seeking, he lays low and lets his play do all of the talking. The internet has also had a lot of fun with the spotlight that has been placed on Curry. After game one of last year's Western Conference Finals, Curry's two-year-old daughter, Riley, took the microphone from her father and made everyone in the room laugh. Riley has been a sensation ever since when videos of her dancing and singing recently hit social media. Curry's personality and unorthodox playing style is what made his rise to fame all the more enjoyable.

## Winter Hiatus

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

Since September, many viewers' favorite prime time TV shows have been airing every week. People practically sit on the couch, patiently waiting for a whole seven days to see a new episode. Suddenly, after a nail-biting episode, one's worst nightmare occurs: a winter hiatus. A winter hiatus is a cruel, agonizing wait from when shows stop airing, and TV networks start playing reruns of old episodes until they return again in the new year. As shows take a break from airing new episodes, one has to wait for three months until the next episode airs. Now, anxiously waiting for new TV shows can be added to the very, very long list of problems that one has in life. The winter is long as it is, so why do the television networks want to punish us? The world may never know. Yes, Netflix is still available for watching old movies and shows, but one gets tired of the simple "Netflix and Chill." As one is sadly reminded that "Winter is Coming" in the form of a hiatus, remember that winter is not forever.



# DONE DIRECTION: THE BAND ON BREAK

Adison Kaiser '18, Assistant Photo Editor



The once X Factor champions split after five years of collaboration.

It was 2010. There were five solo artists. Five boys that had no idea what the next five years would have in store for them. On *X Factor*, these five solo artists, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, and ex-band member Zayn Malik, were brought into one group by Simon Cowell, the creator of the show. The five boys would come to be known as One Direction. Five years later, on Dec. 13, 2015, the boys had their final performance before an 18-month hiatus. The remaining four performed on *X Factor* Finale, leaving off in the place where it all started. The band sang their songs “*Infinity*” and “*History*” while showing pictures of 1D throughout the years, leaving fans in the audience and at home emotional.

Many fans are upset about the band’s break, but understand that 1D may need it due to how busy they are on the road and with making music. “It’s sad because they won’t have any shows going on; they tweet, but it’s hard for fans because they don’t see them as much,” freshman Mackenzie Auquier said. Fans are upset about their absence, but a real fan knows that if you love someone, you have to let them go.

The band has had a long and successful five years, and with all the work they have put into their

careers, they have earned this break, even if it hurts fans. “I think they deserve the break. They worked so hard for so many years,” freshman Rachael Levy said. Agreeing with Levy, Auquier added, “Five years of One Direction is a lot to them, and it’s probably relaxing not to wake up early, rehearse, and then have shows.” The band has done a total of four tours over the past five years, achieving their dreams of becoming globally known singers. Having to always be on the go can be hard on anyone, and in this case, it has been tiring to the group. The break is a chance for the band to finally relax and get a rest.

Although the band has worked hard to earn this break, what happens when it is time for them to come back? Will the band actually get back together? Some say that this is the end, however, fans are staying positive that they will reunite when the time is up.

“At first I was [concerned], but I trust them,” Levy said about the band coming back. Even though there is some doubt surrounding the band’s return, fans are hopeful, supportive, and are grateful for the memories that the past five years have brought. So don’t let go, we can make more memories.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user James Shaw

## NEW YEAR, NEW MUSIC: 2016 STARTS OUT WITH BANG

Max Fields '16, Circulation Manager

2015 ended on a high note and started 2016 with an even higher note. The single and album below are both two great pieces of music and should make fans feel excited for what is to come during the new year.

### Dreamville-*Revenge Of The Dreamers II*:

The J.Cole & Dreamville crew are at it again with another nine-track album. *Revenge Of The Dreamers II* is the sequel to *Revenge Of The Dreamers*, which did not receive a good amount of listeners. It starts where the first version, released in 2014, left off. Many listeners of J.Cole & Dreamville will say that this is another one of “J.Cole’s projects,” but this deserves to be treated as Dreamville’s album. Dreamville, a record label formed by J.Cole, Bas, Cozz, Omen, Ari Lennox, and Lute, gives a fair amount of recording time to each member which makes the album a more engaging and cohesive project. While J.Cole only raps in three of the nine tracks, his name helps push the other artists from the group into the spotlight, giving them a chance to be recognized. Without Cole as their star member and the founder of the label, the album may not have been as good or as popular. “The album does bring competition to other popular rappers,” sophomore Matt Austin said. “J.Cole & Dreamville bring out classic hip-hop beats and turn them into pure perfection.” J.Cole & Dreamville really create a grand entrance for the new year, making it one of the best albums to listen to right now.

### Kanye West- “*Facts*”:

Kanye West lives by the motto “haters gonna hate.” His new single, released on New Year’s Eve, is the epitome of this mantra. The rapper, producer, and fashion designer, came out with what some people might call a “roast session”, or vocalized beef towards others specifically the popular brand Nike. This is one of a few singles that West released in 2015, following “*All Grimy*” and “*FourFiveSeconds*” featuring Rhianna and Paul McCartney. Although the instrumental to the single “*Facts*” is a head banger for listeners, the lyrics are something that Kanye West fans would usually expect: power, swagger, and frustration about his current situation. “Kanye definitely pulls some materials out of his sleeves. It was an obvious freestyle and I do not think this is what his new album *Swish* will sound like, but I am glad Good Fridays are back,” senior Silair Sileewa said. “*Facts*” gives the listener a good representation of what to expect from Kanye skill-wise, but much less is still known about the full album. *Swish* is set to release on Feb. 11. “It seems West is going to make a great comeback, even though he never really left the music industry,” senior Silair Sileewa said.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Chrisdeville and WhichSam

# Star Wars Episode VII: New hope for franchise

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

When fans first heard that there was going to be a new edition to the epic Star Wars franchise, many were both scared and excited. Star Wars prequels, episodes one through three, were a big disappointment to fans of the original 1970s and 80s film trilogy. The prequels did not feel like authentic Star Wars films due to plots bogged down by romantic endeavors, boring galactic politics, static and whiney main characters, and annoying side characters \*cough cough\* Jar Jar Binks.

Written and directed by J.J. Abrams, who rejuvenated the popular new Star Trek films, *Episode VII* picks up 30 years after *Return of the Jedi* with a vulnerable resistance fighting against the new villainous First Order led by Sith

Lord Kylo Ren (Adam Driver). In the midst of this conflict, scavenger Rey (Daisy Ridley) and First Order defector Finn (John Boyega) team up with Han Solo (Harrison Ford). This rag tag group goes on a journey to ensure that the resistance and ace pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) will receive the vital information containing the location of legendary Jedi Knight Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill). Other fan favorites like Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), now a resistance general, C-3PO, R2-D2, and Chewbacca also appear alongside a predominantly new cast.

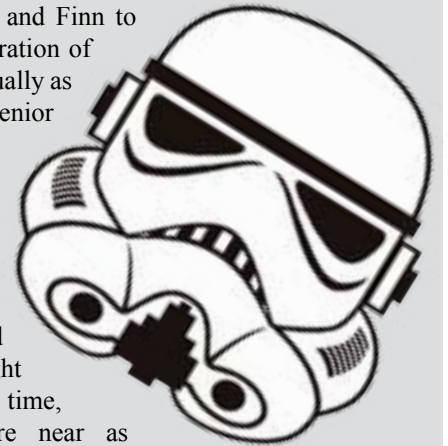
So, the big question still remains: is *Force Awakens* any good? The short answer is yes, it is very good. *Episode VII* does a great job of incorporating the classic Star Wars humor, practical special effects, action, and loveable characters in a fresh way. "I felt that [*Force Awakens*] did its job bringing back the fans after the prequels and paying homage to the original films," senior and Star Wars fan Caleb Duchan said.

*Force Awakens* is both a reboot and sequel to the Star Wars franchise. While Han Solo has a fairly large role in the film, Abrams works to develop the new

characters of Rey and Finn to create a new generation of heroes who are equally as endearing as their senior counterparts.

One of the few gripes the fans might have with *Force Awakens* is that the character of Finn seemed to be in the right place at the right time, and was nowhere near as interesting as female protagonist Rey. Commenting on a small problem with the film, Duchan said, "Now in making this movie, [Abrams] definitely took some shortcuts by retelling a similar story to *A New Hope*, but this was essential to have this movie start off a new trilogy."

Overall, *Force Awakens* is a very enjoyable movie that should be viewed on a big screen. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, but it is mostly suitable for all ages.



## Bet on The Big Short

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

Among the many movies released around Christmas this year was *The Big Short*, an adaptation of the 2010 nonfiction novel "*The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*" by Michael Lewis, and was directed by Adam McKay. The film stars a plethora of big names, including Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell, Christian Bale, and Brad Pitt. They all play investors from different firms and hedge funds around the United States. What connects these investors, however, is what they are betting against.



Starting with Dr. Michael Burry (Christian Bale), the investors slowly start to realize that banks had been giving subprime mortgage loans to unqualified recipients, and then selling these mortgages for their own financial benefit. In simple terms, banks gave mortgage loans to people who were not likely to pay their house loan back. In response to their discovery, these investors created a credit default swap market that shorted, or bet against, the housing market. As they start to get more involved, these investors discover the dark truth behind modern banking.

Unlike the raunchy Wall Street spectacle *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *The Big Short* focuses not on the wild lifestyle of Wall Street higher ups, but rather on the few investors who almost drove people like Jordan Belfort, the fraudulent investor that *The Wolf of Wall Street* was based on, into the pavement. It explains, however, how the Wall Street higher ups were bailed out of the 2008/2009 financial crisis and the strife was placed on everyday citizens who did not deserve financial hardships. While the protagonists bank on their investment, McKay successfully leaves a nasty taste in the mouths of viewers as they are forced to experience the nation's second worse depression for a second time.

The film's success is anchored in its excellent acting performances. Carell and Bale transform into hedge fund managers Mark Baum and Burry respectively, and both adopt the little quirks specific to an investor type character.

McKay's ability to break the fourth wall gives the film a lot of entertainment value, but it also allows the viewer to better understand concepts explained in the plot. McKay brings in acclaimed chef Anthony Bourdain, actress Margot Robbie, and singer Selena Gomez to tell the audience what various financial related terms, such as a collateralized debt obligation, mean in simpler terms. Senior and cultural enthusiast Lily Cohen commented, "[*The Big Short*] took a very complex topic and successfully communicated it to an audience in an entertaining fashion." This contributed to the film's ability to better inform viewers about what actually happened in the housing bubble collapse beyond just sound bites. *The Big Short* takes a closer look into the dark reality behind the financial crisis of 2008-2009 while captivating the viewer.

Photo by Adison Kaiser

## Rapper fails at rock

Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Editor

Interesting artists are hard to find in an age when so many people seem to be cut from the same cloth. Rappers morph into each other, and all of these artists become hard to differentiate. Scott Mescudi, better known as Kid Cudi, was one many saw as one of the few unique yet mainstream artists. His lyrics are deeply personal, but the way Cudi would deliver them allowed for listening simultaneously at both a casual and more intimate level. This style, that was almost completely his, began to fade from his music as time went on. Cudi's music started becoming less of an easy listen more and more "alternative." While releasing albums like *Satellite Flight: The Journey to Mother Moon*, many fans of Cudi's music hoped that this new style would be just a phase, and in some ways it was.

On his new album, *Speedin' Bullet 2 Heaven*, Cudi tries to appeal to his audience with very violent, deeply depressing, and overall powerful lyrics. There are points where this album sounds decent, but for the most part, this album is impossible to listen to in its entirety. Loud, monotonous guitar riffs pierce one's eardrums as fans listen to any of the 26 tracks on this incredibly long album. The vocals delivered by Cudi also leave much to be desired, contributing to the overall

horrendous sound. Many of the songs display such strong emotions, and are obviously coming from the pain that Cudi is feeling. The problem with these intensely personal emotions is that listeners cannot always relate.

From start to finish, this album fails to effectively communicate the feelings and statements that Cudi is trying to convey. Instead of having listeners think about what is driving him to write about his terrible experiences, the music makes one simply wish to no longer be listening to it. Senior Luke Paczos said, "While music is always up for interpretation, the new album is lacking good lyrics and its general sound is unlike any of his other works in any way." Any message that was supposed to be delivered by the album was lost in translation. This new style that Cudi has embraced is one that is not only sure to kill interest from new fans, but it will also sever the bonds that were made with his previous fans.

At this point in time, all that fans of the old Cudi can do is sit and wait to see if he will continue down this dark path that he and his music seem to have started upon, or if he will turn around and shock fans and critics alike in the upcoming years.

# Working it out: High school students should join the workforce

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

As much as students do learn in the classroom, there are just some elements of the world for which BHS (and most other high schools) cannot prepare their students. Of course literature and mathematics are an important part of a developing a student, but with the curriculum including the material it does, there are important life skills that are unintentionally, and somewhat naively omitted.

Unfortunately, unless students take classes such as Applied Personal or Money Matters, they will not receive an education in career resourcing, other than the minor lessons, in job interviewing and applications in sophomore English classes. Important life lessons which are rarely mentioned, revolve around life transactions like paying bills, buying a car, or doing one's taxes. These important skills are completely disregarded from the classes that are required to be taken by students. As a result, the skills that are essential for students to acquire a paying job (other than babysitting) in high school are not taught.

Not only does a part time job demand qualities such as responsibility and timeliness, but it also teaches young adults what it takes to be able to obtain and sustain a job, which eventually they will have to do as careers. "I think working in high school is definitely going to be helpful with my future aspirations," senior and Revive employee Julian Fetterman said. "I was lucky enough to learn the ins-and-outs of the fashion industry which is hopefully where my future will take me." He continued, "Not to mention, I was able to understand the importance of having a strong work ethic to make money and achieve goals important to me and the business." Fetterman plans to continue using what he has learned at Revive to pursue a career in fashion while attending Parsons: The New School of Fashion in New York City.

Having a job at such a young age can also be beneficial in the development of students' abilities to prioritize the important things in their lives. He or she needs to make time for

school, homework, school events that provide a rite of passage, extra curriculars, family, and on top of that fitting work hours into their schedule. This forces them to compartmentalize the parts of their lives and decide what should take priority. "This was something that I had to adjust to," senior and Hollister Co. employee Zachary Hobson commented. "It's a lot of planning to be able to do everything that's important to me, whether it be work or spending time with my friends and of course, school work." Having a high school job is just as time consuming as an extracurricular in an average student's life, and this affects the way in which high school students use their time.

Because the school does not take the responsibility of implementing these qualities necessary to becoming a functioning adult, students should take it upon themselves to immerse themselves in experiences that will help them become more well-rounded in the work force, which every growing student will need to endure in their life time.



Photo by Annie Silver

Senior Julian Fetterman picks out clothes for a client.

# What isn't taught: The problems with bias in history classes

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

There are certain things that American society, as a whole, has deemed appropriate to acknowledge were shameful parts of its history. The most present example of this idea is slavery. The abuses of slavery are not shied away from in most curricula in the United States, and it is made certain that every child knows exactly what happened so that it may never happen again. This is an integral part of the study of history: to remember past mistakes to avoid repeating them in the future.

Other events have transpired more recently, events which most people would likely deem, though not on the same level as slavery, morally questionable at best, which are not discussed in history classes. Events like CIA-sponsored coups which toppled democratically elected governments in Guatemala and Chile, and the subsequent installation of totalitarian dictatorships. Or Japanese-American Internment Camps, where Japanese-American citizens were forcibly placed in camps during World War II for no reason other than they were of Japanese descent. If these events are mentioned at all in most history classes, it is in passing and with far less attention paid than other events of their time periods.

Obviously, it is difficult to fit hundreds, even thousands of years of history into a single eight month school year, which is indicative of a problem in the way history is taught as a whole. By attempting to cram so much valuable information into so little time, some things are sure to get lost. It is hard to not be somewhat suspicious when so many

of the things not covered reflect poorly on the United States government and people. In the case of slavery, any person involved in the slave trade in the U.S. from the 1600s to the late 1800s is long dead. It is easy to disconnect modern society from anything to do with slavery. But with more recent events, the individuals responsible may still be alive and still in positions of power. These events are more fresh in the public mind, and it may be more difficult to reconcile grievances that have direct ties to modern society.

When looking at what is and is not taught in history class, the question of what is important for every student to know must be asked; is a thorough understanding of United States foreign policy during the latter half of the Twentieth Century a necessary skill for every student? A better understanding of the past brings with it a better understanding of the future. Conflicts in the Middle East and poverty in Africa did not come from nowhere. At the root of these problems are either the United States itself or a nation closely related to the United States, such as Britain or France. To understand modern conflicts in Afghanistan, a person must have at least baseline knowledge of the U.S. funding of rebel groups which would become the Taliban. That is at the very least. These problems can be traced back decades to British colonialism in the Middle East, and further still. Animosity toward the West are not random and baseless, and to understand the root causes of the problems is to be better equipped to solve them in the present. "I often feel we can't go straight to some of the

more current things happening because we need the more foundational pieces of where we've been to get to that point," U.S. history teacher Ms. Angela Church said. By excluding certain aspects of history only because they are less desirable, the school system is not allowing students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of history and how it relates to modern society. The dots exist, but the lines are not being drawn between them. The way many issues are currently treated in history classes in the United States is insufficient; there is too great a disconnect between what is taught and the direct effects of those events that is witnessed in the news and mainstream media.

The study of history is extremely important for the understanding of the present day and of times to come. Without a past, there is no future. But equally important is an understanding of the version of history that is taught. As goes the mantra which is often repeated, winners do write history. If any "winner" can be identified from the last century or so of world history, that is, the nation which has seen the least desolation, it would be the United States. The way history is taught in America is generally very Amero- and Euro-centric. There is much more time spent on the European Renaissance than on the Islamic Golden Age, and far more on the colonization of the Americas than on the colonization of Africa. Bias is inherent in all history, and the recognition of those biases helps to foster a deeper understanding of history, and with that, a better understanding of modern society as a whole.



# Disney corporate ambitions pose threat to nerd culture

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

In recent years, Disney's Marvel Studios has been pumping out a nauseating amount of movies that seem more like cash grabs than an attempt to pay homage to comic book characters. By making at least two movies a year, it is hard to imagine that fan-based passion is the main motivator behind the Marvel release schedule. It seems that money is becoming the only motivator.

In its 93rd year of operation, the Walt Disney Company reigns supreme as one of the most popular and influential entertainment conglomerates ever. With a wide array of beloved animated and live action movies, multiple TV stations, amusement parks, stores, and even cruises, Disney hits it big with princess obsessed kids and tweens around the world. However, there is one key market that Disney has not had phenomenal success with: boys.

Currently, though, Disney has been trying to up their male appeal with increased production of generally male-centric programs, along with the acquisitions of Marvel Comics in 2009 and Lucasfilm, the company behind the Star Wars franchise, in 2012 (each being bought for about \$4 billion). With all this money changing hands, one has to wonder if the integrity and sentimentality of these films are being lost in the corporate bustle of Disney.

"I think Marvel understands their fan base for the most part, and makes these cool action superhero movies intended for both the people who read the comics and non-comic readers," senior Eli Falk said commenting on Marvel movie tropes. He continued, "While I am an outsider in terms of comics, when I do see these films, I feel that there is not a plot. It just seems like a bunch of special effects thrown together. People in general get excited about these movies, and I really liked a couple of them like the first Iron Man." Falk's sentiment reigns true when thinking of the most recently released films in the Marvel catalog. *Avengers 2* and *Thor: Dark World* were the definition of mediocre. While other studios have the same problems of producing intellectually dull films, Disney generally has been capable of producing high caliber live action films for a long time. It is a shame that their quality is lacking as of late.

Nonetheless, it is only the comic book franchises that are being treated with corporate greediness, right? Wrong. With the apparent corruption of Marvel Studios by Disney, another franchise teeters on the brink of ruin: the beloved Star Wars franchise. With the box office success of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, it is refreshing that the movie was loved by both fans and critics, but this does not mean that Disney is in the clear. After breaking most box office records with Force Awakens, it is reasonable to assume that Disney is going to try to milk this franchise for everything it has.

Disney's new release schedule states that the main films in the new Star Wars trilogy will be released every two years, but there will be a separate anthology film between each. Essentially, there will be a new Star Wars movie every year for the next five years minimum. "[Disney] is already trying to milk the last drops of the Star Wars franchise," sophomore Timor Betzer said referring to the aggressive advertising campaign surrounding *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. This sounds like Star Wars is on track to become as bloated as Marvel with movies and merchandising being shoved down the public's throat.

While some could argue that this is much better than waiting three years to find out what happens next, hardcore enthusiasts like the old nostalgia and building of anticipation. People waited in line to see *Force Awakens* because the last Star Wars movie came out 11 years ago and the last good Star Wars movie came out 33 years ago. For most people, if there is a new Star Wars movie every year, it will not be nearly as special, and this would be just like Marvel movies in the sense that they will all be the product continuously pumped out to make a profit.

In the end, while fans are sick of seeing corporate greed be put first in sacrifice of true creativity and passion for the fans, they know that times are changing. Money is a big motivator in the world, but it is hard to watch as Hollywood's wallet encroaches on the quality of popular nerd culture.

Photo courtesy of Zeyne Phanika

the  RNIP  
Berkley's finest news source

## Vaccinations: whom should we believe?

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Recently, vaccinations have resurfaced as a hot button topic here in the United States. To some, this may seem strange considering vaccines have been used successfully since the development of the smallpox vaccine in 1796, but some parents have started an "opting out" movement. The two opposing sides, doctors and certain parents, have both put a lot of information out there, so the question is, whom should the public believe?

On the one hand, there are licensed medical professionals with years of experience and training. Most of these people have repeatedly told the public that vaccinations are completely safe, and they have been administering them with high levels of success for years. On the other, there is a small faction of parents with no medical backgrounds who use one study published by a doctor who later had his medical license revoked for fabricating evidence.

Dr. Weingoldsteinberg said, "Vaccines are completely safe. I have done years of research on the topic and I can say without a doubt that there is absolutely no link between vaccinations and autism."

Countering Dr. Weingoldsteinberg, Judith Crockpot, a concerned parent said, "All

that research is fine and dandy, but how can we trust 'doctors' with 'medical degrees' and 'research grants'? The whole thing seems fishy to me."

The "opting out" movement has caused new outbreaks of measles to surface throughout the United States, a virus that was on the brink of extinction before the movement began.

Anti-vaccination activist Jenny McCarthy said, "We cannot sit idly by and let the measles go extinct! Vaccinating our kids is destroying the habitat of thousands of strands of viruses, and I for one will not stand for it any longer."

When asked about the "opting out" movement, President Obama said, "Do you hear the type of s!@\* I have to deal with? I'm over it at this point; my plan is honestly to just let Hillary deal with this one."

*"We cannot sit idly by and let the measles go extinct! Vaccinating our kids is destroying the habitat of thousands of strands of viruses, and I for one will not stand for it any longer."*

## Grappling with ambiguity

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

One of my most vivid memories of freshman year is sitting in Ms. Mullins' Honors 9 English class fifth hour, and having a class discussion. I have no recollection of the piece of classical literature that we were studying at the time, but for some reason, I have a crystal clear memory of Ms. Mullins using the word 'ambiguous' to describe a part of the book. I had not the slightest clue regarding what the word meant, so I asked, and like many things people tell me, it went through one ear and straight out the other. For months, sadly maybe even a year, I would hear the word pretty often and still not know the meaning. Ironic in a way, because for those of you who do not know, 'ambiguous' is defined, according to dictionary.com, as lacking clarity or definiteness; or obscure; indistinct. The word 'ambiguous' was problematically ambiguous to me.

Years later, while the definition of the word ambiguous has not changed, the meaning for me has. Not only is it a word I now understand, but the concept is something that I think about probably an abnormal frequency, mostly due to a HBO show I recently watched. The show is called *The Leftovers*, and it acquired its name because the series revolves around people who are still left on Earth after two percent of the population randomly disappeared at the same time.

While two percent does not seem like a large amount, that is one in 50 people, and therefore almost all of the remaining people knew someone who disappeared. However, three years later, there has been no consistent correlation found between all of those who went missing, where they are, or if they are dead or not. Therefore, the friends and family of those departed do not know if they should mourn the loss of these people, if they should give up hope, or continue the search for them. The unknown of their whereabouts and their reasons for the disappearance leaves an unmendable, open wound on the entire world.

Obviously, the loss of loved ones leaves people devastated, but the show implies that the reason why this traumatic event took such a toll on the world is due to the ambiguity of the situation. People were not given the leisure of mourning, and then moving on. There is still a sliver of hope regarding the return of those who vanished.

This resulted in me wondering, is ambiguity a bad thing? Yes, the people still have not healed from the event, but are it good to be positive and have hope about a possible return? Or is it not emotionally intelligent to maintain hope? While thankfully this did not happen to us, the concept of ambiguity affects everyone's life on a daily basis whether we are aware of it or not. There are so many opened ended questions that we may never be able to answer. Do we truly want or need the answers though? Is ambiguity the root of much of our stress?

My good friend Sophie does not have the ability to read a book with an ambiguous ending. She will scour the internet for—I kid you not—days, and ask her English teachers hundreds of questions. She needs to know what the author meant by the ending, and a unanimous, definite consensus of what critics believe to have happened in the conclusion. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Giver* are her worst nightmare.

For many of us high schoolers, a great source of stress is our future. We have no idea where we will be in ten years from now, and for some of us, even just a year from now. Thinking about, let alone venturing out, into the unknown is one of the most terrifying situations in which to be. Our futures, of course, are ambiguous. There are so many options and paths we could possibly take, and then there are so many variables that are not in our control. This concept of a non-definitive future is extremely unsettling. Therefore, the root of this anxiety is ambiguity.

Yet, if there were to be answers to everything, such a life would be extremely mundane. If we knew exactly what the future had in store, or what happened once we died, we would more than likely stroll through out life with very little aspirations. The less ambiguity, the less imagination, the less religion there would be, the less debates,—our world would be filled with facts as opposed to exploration and hopes.

Throughout grappling with the concept of ambiguity, I have realized and accepted that that it cannot be classified as either good or bad. Rather, it is the personal satisfaction that comes along with dealing with the ambiguity of life that matters. Once we are able to stop looking for the answers or possible outcomes to everything, we are able to take on life and make the most of it.

Accepting the unknown instead of questioning it, is key to being able to evolve as a person and grow from weary situations. The characters in *The Leftovers* finally accepted that they do not know what happened to their loved ones. They did not forget about them and did not stop missing them, but they understand that what happened had happened. Once this was achieved, everyone was able to move forward with their lives. Stronger bonds with remaining friends and family were forged. Through dealing with ambiguity, they were able to realize who is important to them, and how meaningful relationships are.

Once we manage to trudge through our own ambiguous futures, we learn what motivates us, what inspires us, and what we value. We learn from the mistakes that we make because of the answers we do not have. Our futures and the unknown are scary, but once we come out of the other side, we will realize that we are who we are because of the ambiguity that we faced. We become a doppelganger of our current selves—a better version of the same person.

## Adjusting to the modern landscape

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Over winter break, my family and I went on a trip to Florida. Back in August, my mom bought plane tickets to the Ft. Lauderdale, but some time after that my brother, my sister, and I talked my parents into taking us to Universal Studios in Orlando. I brilliantly came up with the idea of taking an Uber to our hotel in Orlando in order to save time and money, but my Dad had some trouble comprehending the idea. "Who's going to drive a family of five 200 miles across the state on command? That's ridiculous," he proclaimed. Instead, we rented a car and drove to Orlando, and then a few days later back to Ft. Lauderdale to fly back home. The whole process of waiting in line, paying for the car, and getting the keys probably took an hour. Then there was the issue of parking at the theme park—literally a mile away in the "King Kong" section of the behemoth parking lot. Did I mention that parking for the day cost us \$25! In the end, taking an Uber would have been a lot more convenient and much cheaper, but my father's outdated way of thinking got in the way.

It seems as if a massive conflict has been building for the last five to ten years in America. On one side are people who are traditional and have grown accustomed to a lifestyle and set of values that was created by the generation of people who are now in their mid-40s or older. Their opposition are the people who have adopted a new way of living and thinking that value technology, flexibility, social reform, and overall progress in our society. These two subsets of the population are now so set against each other that conflict is starting to grow noticeably in all facets of life, and it is limiting the productivity of our society.

The 2016 presidential race has cast a light on the political aspect of this issue that is dividing the country. One example is that roughly half of people identify with the Democratic ideology that climate change is an important issue. These people, who are often younger, see what the future holds. They know how crucial it is that the United States joins nearly every other country and puts resources into developing alternative energy sources. The problem is, there is an equally large section of the population that is preventing these people from making meaningful changes to save our world. Made up of more traditional and generally older people, Republicans represent the outdated way of thinking in American politics. It is inevitable that climate change will eventually be addressed, and hopefully solved, but it is frustrating to those who believe in the reality of climate change now, that the ideas of the past generation are holding them back.

In sports, the conflict between new and old thinking is having a big effect on how teams are assembled, managed, and how the game is played. Ever since the late 1990s, when the Oakland Athletics employed the "Moneyball" strategy in Major League Baseball and were relatively successful, sports teams at all levels have explored the idea of using statistics in innovative ways to try and maximize each dollar spent in comparison to wins and championships. The strategy has had the most success in baseball where nearly every team uses sabermetrics (the statistical analysis of data) to some extent to inform their decisions. In recent years these ideas have spread to every other sport with the up tempo style of Chip Kelly's Oregon football teams being the best example. All this success has changed sports forever, but some remain inexplicably skeptical. There are a couple dozen owners and athletic directors across the major sports who have deliberately hired old school coaches, general managers, and scouts who have traditional minds for the game, and they use their intuition to make decisions. This small number of old fashioned thinkers who refuse to acknowledge the success of a system that is frankly impossible to deny has ultimately slowed down development in the world of sports.

The divide between these two mindsets have affected far more than just sports and politics. The difference is evident in all aspect of life. For example, younger people have started to value their free time and flexibility, and as a result, working from home has become very common. The use of technology has also set the two sides apart. More traditional thinkers value face-to-face interactions, mailed invitations, and phone calls, while the more progressive and technologically savvy have adjusted to using new technology in all settings no matter how formal. Family dynamics have even changed with people getting married later in life. The mother, fathers, and grandparents of the people leading this revolution of sorts are outraged by people taking longer to take longer to "get their life together", but it all comes back to the same change of philosophy that is taking the U.S. by storm. Those who are stuck in the past need to embrace the next generation and adapt to what the future is bound to eventually look like.

To be clear, I am not simply attacking older generations, but rather an outdated way of thinking—many of our grandparents use iPhones and drive hybrid cars. That is not the issue. I am rather pointing out an area of tension that has developed and as a result slowed down the advancement of our society.

There are two very different ways of thinking that conflict each other over and over in every aspect and industry of our country. A solution in which the two sections of people in the U.S make a compromise needs to be reached. In general the more modern way of thinking should have the freedom to explore what they are capable of achieving, but obviously there are reasons for the way that society has operated previously, and therefore things that the younger generation can take from the past. As with many other times throughout history, these two generations are extremely different, and the older one is holding back the progress and innovation that the new one is capable of achieving.

# The year of realization

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

Since we were old enough to walk and talk, we have been taught by many that others' beliefs and thoughts should be irrelevant to our mindsets and feelings about ourselves. This, in many instances, is something that many of us forget when living day to day.

After completing almost all of high school, I believe that my mindset, in regards to my social life, has undergone a complete metamorphosis. The ideals and values that I once had in place for interactions with friends and acquaintances has drastically changed regarding my appreciation for the people I associate with. The main difference being that I just do not care as much.

Obviously, I care about my social life, and the people in it, but I do not let it determine my mood or which people I hangout with anymore. For years, the whole concept of FOMO (fear of missing out) truly swayed a lot of the decisions I made when it came to befriending certain people or going to different social events. The most important element of socializing for me was to make connections to get invited to things to hopefully have fun with people who I was not even that close with. However, after years of having FOMO led me blindly through the many get-togethers, parties and hangouts, I came to the realization that it does not matter what I am doing or who I am doing it with if it makes me happy in the moment. I spent so much time thinking about how every moment I am living is going to affect the next without thoroughly enjoying what I was doing on any specific occasion.

After finally accepting that fact that nothing besides my own opinion on things really mattered, I have been a much happier person. Thinking back upon the elements of my social life that I used to stress about, I could not be more disappointed in myself. Not only did it mentally exhaust me, but it created an atmosphere where I never truly allowed myself to get close to people I liked. I've since created many friendships I am very grateful to have, and I have no regrets about any of my decisions made in high school, but I can for a fact say that if I knew the things I do now two years ago, I would have made some different decisions. I would not have let the little things like someone I don't even like saying bad things about me, or not being invited to one event, mess with my head game as much as I let it before. Looking back I now know that the only one that is able to cause myself as much irritation as those things caused me is myself. If I would have just understood the concept of focusing on myself instead of others at that point in my life I would have acted immensely different, and I would have enjoyed life more fully.

The problem with the modern day high school social scene is that everyone is in each other's business. I am not an exception, however, because I like to gossip as much as the next guy, however, I do believe that it is toxic. By allowing people to talk about other people behind their back is allowing unnecessary issues to be created. After creating many, many, of these unnecessary issues, I can confidently conclude that it is so not worth it. It is so much easier to not have problems with people than to have petty problems with someone who most likely does not affect me in anyway.

Looking back at it, I would not change any friendships I gained or lost throughout high school, but I would change my outlook and motivations for my decisions. I should have let what was most enjoyable determine what I did on my Friday nights, not what would be most beneficial for my reputation. If sophomore me knew what senior version of me does now I think I would have been an overall more confident person. The realization that the only person who I needed to be worrying and talking about was myself, triggered the realization that to be happy I need to let everything happen naturally and not force relationship. I would have been more grateful for any and all friendships that were created, and really would have enjoyed every second of whatever I was doing, because, as Big Sean has sung, "in the end all you really have is memories."

# Find X.

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

While in the process of applying of college, I heard that the University of Chicago had some very unconventional essay topics. As I scrolled through the list of questions, everything from describing how cool a Mantis Shrimp is for being able to see more colors than us or how one feels about Wednesdays appeared. I really have no interest in attending the university and did not apply, but the simplest essay topic on the list made me think in a way that I had never before. The prompt was a simple two word request: find X. The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to write about my personal take on such an open ended task.

X is the unknown. X itself means absolutely nothing, it is what X is equal to that gives this single letter a purpose. In algebra, I learned that  $2 + x$  has an infinite number of solutions. It can be  $2 + 2 = 4$  or it could be  $2 + 1000000000 = 1000000002$ . However, if that same  $2 + x$  is set equal to a number, let's say 3, suddenly, the X has an identity of 1. It has a meaning, a direction, a concrete and tangible existence. It is no longer a letter out of place amongst a group of numbers.

Based on how passionately I have described X's equality to one, you have probably assumed that I believe in a deeper meaning to the acquisition of X, and you would be correct.

I am not trying to explain X's properties as it pertains to basic algebra, though I guess I already have, but rather its meaning as a metaphor for our quest as humans to define our existence. Life's a journey that offers few answers, leaving us with the impossible task of solving the questions for ourselves. Everything that we have accomplished as a race is in pursuit of this simple request to find the missing piece of the puzzle.

In Ancient Greece, humans were perplexed by a bright yellow orb in the sky that rose in the East and set in the West each day. In order to make sense of this phenomenon, they used what they knew to deduce that a man named Helios rode his chariot across the sky, carrying the sun behind him. Thousands of years later, we know that the Earth's rotation is the cause of the rising and setting sun. While one of these is obviously false, both were man's explanation to what he did not know. The reason behind the sun's journey was X, and to find an answer, humans set the unknown equal to an explanation in attempt to solve their problem, and eventually, we were successful in our pursuit.

While some Xs can be found, the quest for others is futile, but nevertheless, we will continue to try. Humans crave the comfort of an answer. I can think of no better example of this than in the foundation of religion to answer the most ambiguous phenomenon of them all, death and what follows it. We have created the heavens and the concept of reincarnation because the ambiguity of death is not something many are able understand. What happens to us after we die is X and our explanation for the fate of our souls is an attempt to find answers where no concrete ones exist.

While there are unknown variables that humans work together to solve, I believe that each person has their own personal X, a definition of themselves that remains truly unanswered for most of our lives. People will take the entirety of their life to define themselves. As children, we are born without a direction; our meaning is unknown. We have yet to discover how we will have an effect on the world.

My life up to this point has given me some things to set my X equal to. X has equalled a daughter, a friend, a teammate, an editor, a student—to name a few. Each of these has been something that has worked to define the person that I am today. It has given the life I lead some meaning and direction as I strive to define myself based on the areas in which I involve myself.

I am about to go through the biggest transition of my life in a few months, and I know that I will go through many new experiences to which I can set my X equal to, which will define my existence. In the years to come, I know that I will add more and more to that list, as will everyone, and my X will forever be evolving.

I am sorry to tell you that I have not been able to find X. To tell you the truth, anyone who has would be lying. There is beauty to be found in humankind's noble pursuit to find the answer. I believe that it is the ambiguity of X that has provided humanity with its greatest gifts of artists and brilliant thinkers. Answers should not come easy, for it is the challenge that has pushed our race to accomplish feats that some would deem magical. I know that my effect on the world is not something that I will just know one day, but it is the accumulation of my actions that will define me in the end. I will try to determine my X as a great one by the time I leave this planet.

Actress Gilda Radner once said, "I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next." Life is not always going to go as planned and there is no way of knowing what our X will be by the time our lives are over. That being said, while it may seem like a futile, impossible undertaking, we must attempt to find out who we are and where our place in this world is through our own experiences.