

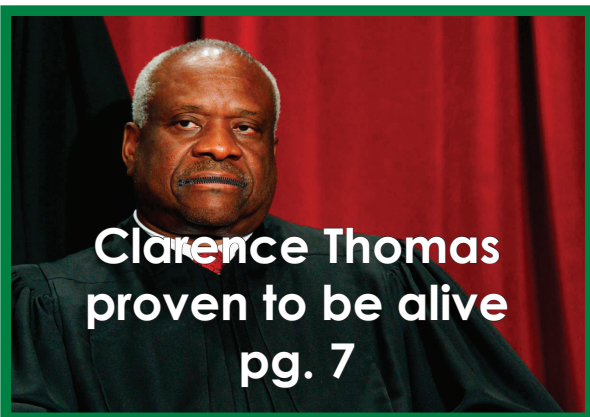
# THE SPECTATOR

# MARCH

2016

Berkley High School • 2325 Catalpa

Volume LXXI • Issue 6



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proven to be alive  
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**The Meh List:**  
Not good, not bad, just meh.

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1. Third Hour
2. Tallahassee, FL
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4. Wednesdays
5. G2



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



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# Flint crisis takes steps towards recovery

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

The poison that came into Flint homes and caused one of the worst epidemics Michigan has seen started just after April 25, 2014. That was the day that Flint switched to using the Flint river water and started producing raw water into potable water. Prior to that, Flint used the Detroit Water Sewer and Drainage system to give them pure water. Up to that time, Flint was run by an Emergency Manager until April of 2013 when City Council approved of the switch in a 7 to 1 vote.

Darnell Earley, the Emergency Manager, went to the Treasurer of the State, Andy Dillon, that April, who gave his approval to have Flint switched to a new water source. The issue then became one of timing. Flint was not prepared to produce the water at that time and their contractor, KWA, would not have the system ready until late 2016. It was then that Flint's Emergency Manager wrote Detroit's water department to say that they would terminate their contract with Detroit by April 17, 2017.

When the time came, the Flint Water treatment plant supervisor, Mike Glasgow, stated in emails on both April 16 and 17 of 2014 that they were not ready, trained, and staffed for the switch. Additionally, Glasgow stated that if this switch was going to happen in the next few weeks, he could not support it.

The Flint Water treatment plant was designed as a backup plant which was used for temporary purposes in a case of an emergency. It was not designed for a permanent plant for the production of water. It very well may have been converted to a permanent production plant, however, it needed to be brought to compliance with a law called Public Act 399. Within this act, there is a rule called the "lead and copper rule," otherwise known as the LCR. This rule states that any water treatment plant that produces raw water to potable (pure) water for over fifty thousand citizens must have an anti-corrosion treatment in place. This is where the breakdown in the system happened. Flint did not add the anti-corrosive material to the treatment. This simple chemical, orthophosphate, would have prevented the old lead pipes from leaching lead into the drinking water.

Going forward, citizens still cannot drink the water, and there is not a definitive timeline of when they will be able to. Some answers will come when Governor Rick Snyder testifies in front of Congress in two weeks. However, the announcement came March 3 that the Governor hired new legal counsel, independent of appointed counsel, to help in his legal battle. Junior Olivia Nave said, "Hopefully [the government] will recognize the severity of the situation and realize that governments are not businesses."

Since that date, more emails have been released giving reasonable evidence that Snyder knew of the problem in Flint. The circumstantial evidence that surrounds the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Governor show that both Sara Warful, public relations and community director for the Governor, and Brad Warful, public relations and communications director for the DEQ, were dealing with the lead problems from spring of 2014 until late 2015. Mr. and Mrs. Warful worked in the capacity to advise their respective bosses and communicated the positions on the topics to the public.

Regardless of the culpability at this time, all of the technical issues will be hammered out in a courtroom. Junior Kevin Jurvis said, "I understand that the people at fault will face the appropriate charges, but the bigger problem in my mind is all of the children who were affected. Until there is a cure, the kids should be the main focus." For now, the way that the government deals with these problems will really display how much people are willing to help, and hopefully designate who the real leaders are.

## West Virginia allows gun carry without permit

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

After Governor Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia vetoed a law allowing citizens to carry concealed firearms on March 5, the state legislators promptly overruled his vote. The law will allow any lawful gun owner that is over the age of 21 to carry a concealed weapon without a permit. With the new law, West Virginia becomes one of eight states that allows concealed carry without a permit.

In his statement of veto, Gov. Tomblin wrote, "West Virginia's law enforcement officers have dedicated their lives to keeping us safe and helping us in times of need, and it's disheartening that the members of the legislature have chosen not to stand with these brave men and women." He does not believe people should need to carry around guns, as the police force already does the job of protecting people. According to The Charleston Gazette Mail, Gov. Tomblin tried to appeal to state legislatures along with police officers to convince them that this would lead to a rise in firearms and a drop in safety. He hoped this would keep them from overruling his veto, but the bill was still passed.

Promoters of the bill support their argument with the second Amendment in the Bill of Rights, the right to bear arms. They say it is not that they are disrespecting local law enforcement but are now happy that West Virginians can take matters of safety into their own hands.

Junior Jordan Herskovitz voiced her annoyance with the bill. She said, "Saying they should be able to carry guns because it is a constitutional right is their only argument, and it's weak. [It's] like when a kid says 'but mom said I could!' after dad tells them 'no'." Herskovitz is not the only one who feels this way. Many critics of the Second Amendment remark how the amendment is old, and was only fitting in a colonial America with no automatic weapons.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey believes that the new law will not compromise law enforcement efforts or increase the amount of gun related deaths. Morrissey said, "I know that this legislation will not impact public safety. If this bill is enacted, we will not only expand freedom, but we will keep our citizens protected."

# Apple CEO refuses FBI request to unlock iPhone

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Last month, Apple CEO Timothy Cook refused an FBI request and court order to unlock the iPhone of one of the San Bernardino shooters. This case highlights the growing dispute between national security interests and protection of personal privacy, a matter that has been repeatedly brought to the public's attention since the passing of the Patriot Act in 2001.

Apple refused the request on the grounds that it would endanger the privacy of its users. There is currently no way to fully access the contents of an iPhone, not even by Apple itself. If Apple were to create a so-called "backdoor" into an iPhone to allow the FBI to access encrypted data within it, it would open up the possibility that any iPhone could be unlocked. Even if this technology were destroyed immediately after being used, the fact that it was ever created could put the privacy of Apple users in jeopardy. If the U.S. government is able to make this request, Apple contends, there is nothing stopping individuals or governments with malicious intents from doing the same.

The FBI pledged to use this hypothetical software in select cases which pose significant threats to national security. The phone they wish to access the data of belonged to Syed Rizwan Farook, who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California late last year. The FBI believes there could be information in the phone that would lead to other terrorists

and terrorist plots.

On Feb. 16, Magistrate Sheri Pym of the Federal District Court for the District of Central California ordered Apple to unlock the phone. To justify the court order, the government cites the All Writs Act of 1789, which allows judges to "issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of their respective jurisdictions and agreeable to the usages and principles of law," which, by some interpretations requires third parties (in this case, Apple) to comply to court orders. Senior Will Sollish highlighted the complexity of this issue, and said, "On the one hand, I have trust in the judicial system to [not] issue an unjust order that that violated the rights of the people. On the other hand, I appreciate the fact that Apple is protecting our privacy, even if it comes across as just a publicity stunt."

In an open letter to Apple users on Feb. 16, Cook called the government's request "chilling" and that Apple "must speak up in the face of what we see as an overreach by the U.S. government." As the conflict between national security and personal privacy escalates, cases like these will become more common. Disputes such as this one will force large groups of people to decide which they value more: their security or their privacy.

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## Andddd we're off!

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

With the race for each party's nomination half way through, one candidate has emerged as the front-runner for each party. Here is a look at the status of each candidate.

**Candidate:** Secretary Hillary Clinton  
**States she has won:** 17  
**Notable states won:** Florida, Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia  
**Delegates:** 1,606 (467 superdelegates)  
**Predictions:** Clinton nearly doubles Sanders' delegate total and is in the lead to take the nomination before the Democratic Convention.



**Candidate:** Senator Bernie Sanders  
**States he has won:** 9  
**Notable states won:** Minnesota, Michigan  
**Delegates:** 851 (26 superdelegates)  
**Predictions:** Bernie is behind as of now, but there are many liberal, west coast states whose delegates are still up in the air. Do not stop feeling the Bern yet.  
**Quote:** "Even though he has not done well as of recent, there is still hope for Sanders. Clinton was expected to win the southern states. I think Bernie will do well in upcoming primaries," Brendan Radtke said.



**Candidate:** Donald J. Trump  
**States he has won:** 15  
**Notable states won:** Florida, North Carolina, Georgia  
**Delegates:** 673  
**Predictions:** Whether he takes the nomination before the Republican Convention, Trump has too much of a lead not to be named the Republican nominee.



**Candidate:** Senator Ted Cruz  
**States he has won:** 8  
**Notable states won:** Texas, Kansas  
**Delegates:** 441  
**Predictions:** Cruz is staying alive with Trump, but if he does not prove to have equal support from voters he will not be able to take the nomination.  
**Quote:** "Cruz is the Republican's only chance to compete with Trump," Ryan Schildcrout said.



**Candidate:** Governor John Kasich  
**States he has won:** 1  
**Notable states won:** Ohio  
**Delegates:** 143  
**Predictions:** Kasich probably will not make a dent in the delegate race outside of his home state of Ohio.



Trump and Clinton will try and capture the nomination before their respective conventions, and their fellow candidates will attempt to overcome large deficits for the nomination.

## Carson sees "no political path forward," drops out

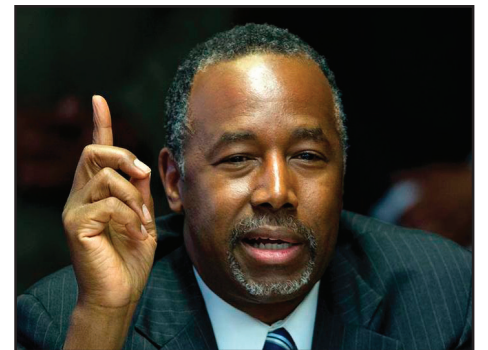
Max Fields '16, Circulation Manager

Ben Carson, the man who was once considered a threat to all Republican candidates in the national polls, dropped out of the nomination process on March 4. The Detroit native, retired neurosurgeon, and Medal of Freedom winner made the announcement with his staff the day after the results from Super Tuesday came out, with Carson in last place, winning only eight delegates.

In November, Carson led the average polls with 24.8 percent, with Donald Trump only 0.2 percent behind. But after the Super Tuesday results came in, Trump leads with 49 percent of the polls in his favor while Carson trailed behind him with only 10 percent.

Supporters of Carson were left wondering what caused their candidate to lose momentum. Many believe that he lost credibility after he lied about having a violent childhood. Others thought that it was the fact that he was unable to perform well during the Republican debates and could not stick to the questions that were asked. However, things were looking up for him before Super Tuesday, and on March 1, Alabama State Senator Tripp Pittman endorsed Carson in his campaign for his presidency.

Carson may now be out of the race, but it does not mean that he is out of the picture. Rumors are spreading that Republican operatives are pushing Carson to run for the U.S. Senate seat in Florida. Regardless of his next move, Carson plans to "remain committed to saving America for future generations."



Photos courtesy of Sevvv, Katherine Faulders and Wikimedia Commons user Michael Vadon

## Michigan senate votes to decriminalize MIP charges

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

On March 3, in a 36-2 vote in Lansing, the Michigan state senate voted to decriminalize the minor in possession charge. Currently, those that are below the legal drinking age of 21 face a \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail should they be caught with alcohol. This law would make it so that the first MIP offense is a civil infraction with a \$100 fine and with no misdemeanor charge.

College kids were the intended beneficiaries of this law, as more than 6,000 of them were busted trying to buy or consume alcohol in 2013 and were criminally charged with misdemeanors, according to the Michigan State Police.

Sen. Rick Jones (R), who proposed the bill to the senate, said, "It's been very shocking for me to hear from parents across the state that some judges are giving kids seven days in jail for minor in possession."

According to the Michigan State Police, in the years 2009-2013 there were 38,499 people arrested for a minor in possession charge. College towns such as Ann Arbor and East Lansing saw spikes in those concentrated areas. Junior Grant Laramie said, "I'm happy that this is becoming a law because it takes some of the fear and pressure of going to college off."

This law makes it so that the second infraction would have misdemeanor charges, a \$200 fine, and up to 30 days in jail and the third infraction would have a \$500 fine, up to 60 days in jail, and possible revocation of a minor's driver's license.

This bill is now going on to the House of Representatives where they will vote on whether or not to decriminalize this charge.



# the T RNIP

## Student literally dies outside of school

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

As students left Berkley's local high school, one unfortunate sophomore, Kailey Little, literally died. Eyewitness and friend Becky McDonald said, "Kailey was telling us how she literally died laughing during our science class...and then she literally died." The cause of this real life death is unknown at the time and authorities are currently investigating the unexpected passing.

Students, teachers, and parents were literally shocked when hearing the news. The interview continued with McDonald, as she was willing enough to talk about her traumatic experience during the whole debacle. McDonald said she was casually walking out from school with Little when she saw her suddenly fall and pass out on the sidewalk. "I was literally scared. OMG! I was literally screaming, like, it was the scariest moment of my life," McDonald stated.

McDonald, after 15 minutes of recomposing herself and reapplying every makeup product possible, continued to show me Snapchat pictures she took of the event. "I took pictures to show literally how scared my friends and I were," McDonald said. She proceeded to show me selfies with different filters with Little and the first responders on the sidewalk. Those pictures were then posted on Instagram with the comment, "#omgliterallydead #sheisactuallydead #like4like."

I spoke to McDonald's parents, who were concerned about their daughter's well-being. "Becky is usually very social, and she posts about five pictures on Instagram a week. Since posting the pictures of the incident, she has not added anything to her account. We are very worried. This literal death has literally traumatized her," father Jay McDonald said. He continued, "She will literally need literal therapy to help her cope with this. She literally witnessed an actual death."

Hopefully soon, both the students and the school in this town will find closure. With any luck, Kailey Little, who literally died, will literally rest in peace.

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*"She will literally need literal therapy to help her cope with this. She literally witnessed an actual death."*

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## The pros and cons of recycling

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Recently, two brave, local high school teachers have decided to take a stand against recycling. The two teachers have refused to put recycling bins in their rooms, yet both rooms have fully functioning trash cans. Keeping this in mind, here are some of the pros and cons of recycling:

### Pros:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' is a pretty catchy slogan
- Delays amount of time an item will spend in a landfill by at least a couple months
- Reduces Global Warming (if you believe in that sort of thing)
- Turns things into different things!
- Probably the only thing Republicans and Democrats can agree on (yet our teachers can't)

### Cons:

- Paper cuts
- Shrinks Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- Only a drop in the bucket of how much we need to change to sustain the Earth
- Creates jobs (which makes Obama look better)
- Not as cool as littering

## Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas proven to be alive

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

After 10 years, the longstanding debate regarding whether or not Clarence Thomas is actually alive can be put to rest, because for the first time in the last decade, Justice Thomas asked a question from the bench. The news that Thomas had a pulse and was able to speak came as a shock to many, including top Republican official Bradley White.

When asked about the significance of Thomas not being dead White said, "With the passing of Scalia, it's huge that Thomas is alive. The Republican party has spent millions of dollars to ensure Thomas kept his spot through the last 10 speechless years, and we sure would have looked dumb if he would've been dead the whole time."

It was clear that Justice Thomas quickly caught on to the whole 'talking' thing, seeing as he asked nine more questions that day in court. Thomas later said, "I haven't spoken in 10 years because that prick [Chief Justice] John Roberts jinxed me. I've been waiting 10 years for that man to unjinx, and thank the Lord that he finally did. Vultures have been circling around me for

the past two years, and now they'll finally leave me alone."

Fellow Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was just as shocked as the rest of us, saying, "I have known that man for 23 years, and up until that question, I had no idea what he sounded like. I once saw him eat glue in the 90s and just assumed that he had glued his mouth shut a long time ago."

Now that it is known that Thomas is alive, President Obama only has one empty seat to (not) fill as opposed to two.



Clarence Thomas has his mouth zipped shut.

Photo courtesy of Business Insider and edited by Jacob Bathish

# Buy your way to a 36: corruption in standardized testing

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

Getting into college requires students to be successful in many areas, but the two main components are grades and standardized test scores. While everyone has an equal chance at receiving good grades, the same is not true when it comes to standardize testing. Harvard Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid in 2014, William Fitzsimmons, states that the number one factor in determining how a student will perform on the ACT is their socioeconomic status. The fact is and has been that people who have more money stand to have a better chance of succeeding on standardized tests.

The standardized test industry makes students feel confident by providing six to seven test dates each year so that students can aim for a higher score each time. The idea is that if a student does not meet their desired score the first time, they will have plenty of opportunities to improve. The biggest flaw in that belief is that each test costs between \$40 and \$60 per test. Schools do offer one free test for juniors, but if a student performs below par, he or she is forced to pay in order to retake. With college admission standards rising every year, the importance of doing well on tests is becoming increasingly imminent.

In order to succeed on standardized tests, it is helpful to know the tips and tricks of testing. One of the best ways to receive help is from one on one tutoring, but receiving such help comes with a cost. ACT and SAT tutors can range from \$60 to over \$100 per hour. "I got tutored for \$75 per session, every week, and my score went up eight composite points," an anonymous junior said. If a student cannot afford to pay those large sums weekly, then he or she is immediately put at a major disadvantage compared to students who can. There are free classes and inexpensive books that one can buy, but they will not compare to the benefits one can receive from one on one tutoring. "I'm not going to get tutored—it's really expensive, but I have no doubt that students who are getting tutored will have an advantage over me, and

that's not really fair," junior Marley Jonah said. Since a select group of people can basically pay for a better score, the notion that everyone has the same chance at success by taking the same test is completely absurd.

Standardized tests have lost their purpose in testing students' college readiness, and have shifted to a game of who has enough money to pay for a better score. That is not to say that students cannot be successful without tutoring—it just means that a student has a better chance of being prepared on the test day if he or she shells out cash for a private tutor. Students with higher financial standings are also proven to be more likely to get good grades, which means that their chances of success are once again heightened. "Not only do students from modest economic backgrounds have less access to academic resources, but they often cannot afford the lessons, the transportation or the summer programs, and other infrastructure required to excel," Fitzsimmons said in an interview with the Harvard Gazette. Economic status should not define a person's intelligence, yet that is exactly how the system is set up. Students have no control over their socioeconomic standing, but their college admissions depend on it; that lack of volition is incredibly unfair.

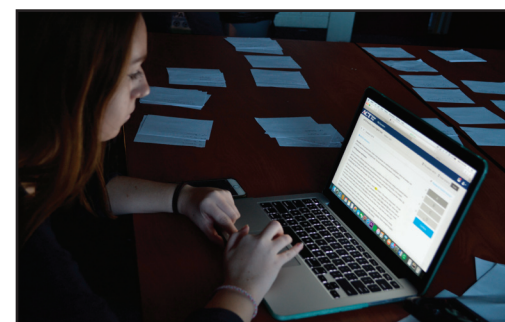


Photo by Annie Silver

Junior Riley Sawicki scrolls through ACT website to prepare for an upcoming test.

## Students' futures questioned at early age

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

Nowadays, students are put into difficult situations regarding their futures, situations that they often have no control over. These situations are often pressuring as students have more to worry about than just our future plans. In a time when getting good grades and having fun are all that one thinks about, adults do not understand that kids may not be planning every detail of their future in the immediate present. Parents and adults in general are more worried about what we are going to major in, or where we are going to raise a family when in reality, most of us do not even know what we are wearing to school tomorrow, eating for dinner, or which friends we are hanging out with this weekend.

At this age, most of my time is spent on school-related activities. Aside from academics and extracurriculars, simply enjoying time with friends is what fills the rest of a high school student's mind. We have more significant things to do than think about what we want to be when we grow up, and we can't even begin to think about that when we have not yet even enrolled in a college, or even selected which schools we plan on applying to.

High school is a time when students just want to live in the moment. We want to enjoy our parties, our dances, and our classes. However, these everyday activities are often made less important as adults are more worried about the future. "Those conversations with adults are unfair because we are still so young," sophomore Ben Slutzsky said. He continued, "A career seems to be something that most people decide on in college." College is the place where you are intended to choose your life path and truly explore what interests you have, but that does not necessarily need to take place in high school. The majority of students walking in the hallways do not have a single clue as to what they will major in, and that is how it should be.

In order for students to understand their plans for the future, they need to understand what type of person they are. These types of lessons are not taught by a textbook or a teacher, but rather from experiences in the real world—experiences that only few have

accomplished when being a teenager in high school. Therefore, when the typical adult asks, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" to a kid in high school, students are often left speechless.

Being a counselor in a high school, or a parent of a high school student, it is ultimately assumed that it is their job to prepare us for the future. By doing so, adult figures believe they need to ask about our plans for the future. "We ask because we want to find out your interests, so we can then guide you into taking the necessary classes," counselor Lori Bullis said. In order for counselors to provide students with opportunities to be successful, it is essential that they know what we are interested in. The problem is that these questions can add pressure to our life at such an early age. "It's unfortunate that students feel pressured by these questions, but it is also understandable," Bullis continued. When questions and comments about students' futures are asked by adults, it is only for one reason: to benefit the student at hand.

As adults begin to realize how absurd the questions they ask teenagers everyday are, two words should remain in their head: "Slow down." We do not know where we will be in 20 years (let alone one year), what we will be doing, or with whom we will be spending time. We are constantly reminded to enjoy our childhoods, as being young does not last forever, so let us enjoy our time in high school by eliminating any discussions that take away from the job at hand: making our times in high school one to remember.

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*"High school is a time when students just want to live in the moment. We want to enjoy our parties, our dances, and our classes."*

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# A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT: RAPE CULTURE IN AMERICA

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

On Friday, Feb. 21, a judge ruled that pop star and singer Kesha would not be let go from her contract with Sony in light of an ongoing lawsuit against producer Dr. Luke, also known as Lukasz Gottwald. Kesha reported acts of physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal abuse, but Gottwald denied the accusations.

The immense amount of support for Kesha following this case indicates that this is not just about one famous woman, but all women. Americans are seeing victim-shaming first hand. Aside from this, society sees the automatic privilege a man's word has, which is seemingly more trustworthy than that of a woman, as well as the catastrophic impact of a legal system that forces women to confront their abusers in court. This case has shed light on the harrowing response of society to rape culture, which is extremely misinformed about sexual violence, and blatantly biased against its victims.

There has, however, been a huge outpour of support for Kesha, but negative responses have manifested even faster. The offenses vary from social media posts calling Kesha a "hoe," an "attention whore," a "slut," to even well-known talk show host Wendy Williams, who stated, "If everybody complained because somebody allegedly sexually abused them...then contracts would be broken all the time." These kinds of

accusations that form doubt regarding abuse allegations and interrogate victim behavior are extremely common, as hundreds of 'ordinary' women's cases have shown. These testimonies depict the stories of children abused by family members, shamed into silence by other relatives; teenage girls who were asked what they were wearing; and women in abusive relationships who were asked by 'friends' what they had done to 'induce' the attacks. In passing conversation, people carelessly repeat these victim-shaming questions: "What was she wearing?" "Was she drunk?" "Was she flirting?" But where

are the questions about the abuser? Does he know the meaning of the words "no" or "stop?" As a society, these actions cannot continue.

That is what makes Kesha's case such an important case—the whole world is watching, and she is helping to shed light on the senselessness of rape culture. If a woman as privileged and well known as Kesha

is subject to such treatment, what hope is there for the millions of 'normal' women dealing with the same problem?

What happens to Kesha matters to everyone. Her treatment at the hands of the legal system and the general public gives a crucial viewpoint to the inevitable struggle facing those who speak out against sexual violence and other forms of abuse.

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*If a woman as privileged and well known as Kesha is subject to such treatment, what hope is there for the millions of 'normal' women dealing with the same problem?*

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## QUANTITY OR QUALITY: SHOULD ARTISTS RELEASE MORE WORK OR PUT MORE WORK IN

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

With social media and extensive technology, people today have more access to music than ever before. Artists have struggled to stay relevant in this digital age due to social media and ever changing pop culture and fads. Many fans agree that they want quality products, but do not want to wait multiple years for the release of one album with less than 20 songs. Instead, music enthusiasts want more. Arguments arise about whether consumers are getting more music from some artists than is needed. Just like the everyday essentials such as sleep, water, and exercise, music consumption and production should also be taken in moderation.

As of late, artists like 32-year-old rapper Future soared into the public eye while releasing multiple projects during one year. Last year, the Atlanta MC became one of the most prolific artists after he showed his impeccable work ethic releasing seven mix-tapes, which held 67 songs all together. During this time, Future had two of the most popular albums of the year: *What a Time to Be Alive* and *Dirty Sprite 2*. But with the release of his latest album, *EVOL*, fans felt as though this was too much music to handle at one time. "Compared to other artists, Future has been oversaturating himself. Releasing 67 songs is more than enough," senior Griffin Palmer said. "He should try to cut back on releasing music, unless he just does not care about his career in the future. If he does not, this might just be his one and only big run in music."

On the other end of the spectrum, many Future fanatics feel as though he is making smart business moves and should keep releasing multiple bodies of work within the year. "Future is doing great. He is ensuring success by releasing projects this way," senior Silair Sileewa said. "If he releases an album, and it flops that is fine because I'm still likely to get two or three great songs out of the entire album that are in constant rotation." Doing this assures that the artists has a greater chance of having a hit song or a quality album. "Plus, nobody actually wants to wait for albums to release, and Future is not the first or last to do this," Sileewa added. For instance, artists like Frank Zappa released about 75 albums in his life time, and The Rolling Stones have released almost 100 compilation albums at this point in

their career.

During this busy time, filled with a massive amount of music releases, artists like Kendrick Lamar, Adele, and D'Angelo released quality projects after a respective three, four, and 14 year hiatus from music. Since their albums released, all three artists were nominated for Grammys and have been recognized by major musicians from all genres of music for their hard work and exceptional work ethic—much like Future. "Generally, I enjoy my artists to have a bit more substance. I want an artist to convey a greater meaning and use their music for a larger purpose than just for people to enjoy and party to," Palmer said. "I like Future, he is talented, but what he is doing seems ineffective. When people have to wait for music, it gives them something to look forward to and prepare for."



Above is the album cover for Future's most recent album, *EVOL*.

Photo courtesy of Ace Showbiz





## RAUNCHY DEADPOOL MOVIE COULD CHANGE THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

Miles Berlin '18, Sports Editor

Ever since Wade Wilson, otherwise known as Deadpool, arrived in the Marvel universe, he has been very different from any other "superhero." Deadpool, portrayed in the movie by Ryan Reynolds, was one of the first comic book characters to break the fourth wall, the imaginary wall separating the comic book story from the readers. Naturally, when Marvel decided to come out with a movie, it had to be different than usual. Even in the comic books, Deadpool embraced his vulgar behavior, meaning the only way to accurately represent him as a character and a person is with an R-rated movie.

The movie's opening weekend broke the record for most money of any R-rated film, easily beating *50 Shades of Grey* and *The Matrix Reloaded*, two movies that are famous around the world, and also rated R. Deadpool's box office dominance also revives the R-rated comic book movies after failures and disappointments such as *Watchmen*, *Kick-Ass*, and *The Punisher* movies made people believe that this movie genre was dead. People had originally thought that in order to bring in

the broadest possible audience, movies featuring superheroes had to be rated PG-13.

The studio has yet to release demographic numbers for the opening weekend crowd, but rivals say that despite its R-rating, *Deadpool* attracted a broad range of moviegoers, even though normally the average comic book/superhero fan would tend to be at a younger age and not able to see an R-Rated movie. Movies that are that inappropriate generally appeal to people that are older in age, like senior Jordan Zimmerman. "The movie was hilarious; I was laughing the entire time," Zimmerman said.

While *Deadpool* is not remotely the first R-rated superhero comic book adaptation in cinematic history, it stands a pretty good chance of making history in regards to the box office success, even though most movies in the R-Rated superhero genre do not do as well. Maybe the recent successes of *Deadpool*, also known as the "The Mercenary With the Mouth," will help revive this movie genre and bring a whole new wave of movies for people to enjoy.

## EDDIE THE EAGLE SOARS

Sloan Elie '18, Entertainment Editor

*Eddie the Eagle*, directed by Dexter Fletcher, launched into theatres on Feb. 21 in the UK. The film stars the two well-known actors Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman as an underdog duo participating in the Olympics for ski jumping. The touching story has received mixed reviews, but is overall a pleasant, inspiring film.

The movie is based on a true story about the little guy, Eddie Edwards, becoming the first high jump competitor to represent Great Britain in the Olympics in 1988. The film starts off with nine-year-old Edwards, portrayed by Egerton, hoping to one day participate in the Olympics. In an attempt to follow his dream, Eddie tries to compete in multiple Olympic events, only to fail miserably at all of them. After giving up on summer sports, he decides to give skiing in the Winter Games a try. After a long, uphill battle, Eddie finally joins the Olympic ski team as a ski jumper.

Eddie strives to self-train, but suffers an injury after

biting off more than he can chew, where he meets a drunk Bronson Peary, portrayed by Jackman. After seeing Eddie's unwavering determination, Bronson offers to become his mentor, and the moment Eddie accepts his offer, the film's plot takes off.

Reviews for this film are varying, either taking off with audiences for the sweetness of the film, but falling short for its inspirational clichés. Sophomore Camden King said, "I thought the movie was very inspirational; I would go and see it again with family." This movie averaged out to a score of 76 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and a 7.6 on IMDb. The film also brought in 1.9 million dollars on its first day and over 6 million in its first weekend.

Although the film was cliché at times, the overall story was sweet and simple. It was a feel good movie that tells audiences to never give up on their dreams, no matter what obstacles one has to overcome.

Photo courtesy of Ten 30 studios and Wiki commons userGameshowforever

# SPRING ALBUMS BEGINNING TO BLOOM

Cameron Cece '16, Entertainment Editor

In the first few months of 2016, many artists have put out quality pieces of work. Some have worked to reclaim the spotlight they once had, while others are still working to satisfy fans and shock the music world. Check out these albums from two of the most captivating and prevalent artists today in music.

**This Unruly Mess I've Made- Macklemore and Ryan Lewis**

Fueled by the mass appeal of pop music and the hip-hop underground, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis' hit exploded into the mainstream during the 2013 Grammys, where the duo's album *The Heist* beat out Kendrick Lamar's *Good Kid m.A.A.d City* for the best rap album award. The two begin *This Unruly Mess I've Made* where they left off with the first song "Light Tunnels." The listener is taken back to the night of the Grammys. "This song is great. It paints an amazing picture of Macklemore as an outsider during the Grammys. It was truly refreshing to hear Macklemore get back to making more personal music rather than pop rap," senior Dylan Lickteig said.

However, the album does take a dip back into the pop rap scene for a couple tracks ("Downtown" and "Brad Pitt's Ugly Cousin") where Macklemore spits about mopeds and being Brad Pitt's ugly cousin. "It seems the group was searching for another "Thrift Shop", but instead of finding a summer anthem the group comes up short," Lickteig said. Macklemore and Ryan Lewis try to recapture the life "Thrift Shop" had during the summer of 2012, but end up creating bland music and lyrics

that may make listeners cringe. "These two tracks had some funny lyrics, but some of the lines were a bit too much," Lickteig explained.

Though this album does have its shortcomings, both Macklemore and Lewis show their influence in the game by getting features from all over the board. *This Unruly Mess I've Made* features rap legends such as KRS-One, Melle Mel, Grandmaster Caz, Kool Moe D, and Eric Nally as well as other great performers like Chance the Rapper, Anderson Paak, and Jamila Woods. The album also has a few standout tracks where the group pushes the listener to think about modern day issues, such as substance abuse, gentrification, and white privilege. Songs such as "Buck Shot" focuses on graffiti and is reminiscent of 90s rap, while the song "Need to Know" tackles the topic of fatherhood.

Overall Macklemore and Ryan Lewis did not live up to their previous hype, but delivered a solid project that tidies up the metaphorical mess previously made. "Give the album a try. It will not disappoint," Lickteig said.

**Untitled Unmastered- Kendrick Lamar**

CEO of Top Dawg Entertainment, Anthony Tiffeth, decided to shock the internet on March 1, when he announced on Twitter that a surprise project from T.D.E. would be released during the following week. Many speculated that T.D.E. artist Isaiah Rashad would release his album early, but what fans received was much more unique. On March 4, Tiffeth released an arsenal of eight unfinished demos from Kendrick Lamar's

most recent album *To Pimp a Butterfly* recording sessions. The songs are a mix of funk, soul, jazz, and spoken word pieces that featured artists such as Anna Wise, CeeLo Green, Bilal, Thundercat, and fellow T.D.E. members Jay Rock and SZA.

Even with the release of Grammy award-winning album *To Pimp a Butterfly*, Lamar is still able to wow rap fans and critics alike with his incredible skill and creativity. "Even Kendrick's throwaway tracks can be deemed as great pieces of work," Lickteig said. The album is complex, made of contrasting moods and ideas that are similar to those off Lamar's latest album. *Untitled Unmastered* set up in general is different as well. Instead of actual song titles, Lamar released each track as only a number and date which identifies when each song was brought to life inside the studio.

Some of the tracks on the project such as "Untitled 04" and "Untitled 07" have been performed previously on television shows such as the *Tonight Show* and *The Colbert Report*, but that does not ruin the experience of listening to this project.

This album is entertaining, but is more for past Lamar fans who were curious about what else could have been on the album. Lickteig explained, "This album is for sure for previous fans of Kendrick. This is nothing outside of the realm of his album *To Pimp a Butterfly* and that is alright."

Though this is not a full body of work, King Kendrick shows his dominance in the game with these tracks and keeps fans craving for more.

## ZOOTOPIA TRANSCENDS THE ANIMAL WORLD WITH SCARILY HUMAN THEMES

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

With the big commercial and critical successes of *Wreck-It Ralph*, *Frozen*, and *Big Hero 6*, *Zootopia* had a lot of prestige to live up to, and it fully delivers. Step aside Pixar, Walt Disney Animation Studios is now officially a force to be reckoned with as far as computer animated films go.

*Zootopia*, directed by Rich Moore, Byron Howard, and Jared Bush, and starring Ginnifer Goodwin and Jason Bateman, is set in an animated world inhabited by anthropomorphic animals of all sizes and denominations. The city of *Zootopia* is basically an animal occupied version of New York.

A lot of the movie's fun comes from the beautiful animation and design choices. As *Zootopia* inhabitants range in size from tiny shrews to elephants and giraffes, the architecture and devices that make everyday interactions between species possible are creative and fascinating to see on screen. From trains with many different sized door openings to vibrantly designed boroughs of the city that mimic distinct habitat terrains, the creativity alone in this movie is astounding.

The main plot revolves around Judy Hopps (Goodwin), the city of *Zootopia*'s first bunny police officer, and her adventure with sly con man fox Nick Wilde (Bateman) to crack a case involving mysterious mammal

disappearances. All of the different species interacting in this animal metropolis can be equated to different ethnicities living in the boroughs of New York. A good amount of the plot's tension results from the other animals' lower expectations of Judy because of her species.

The main themes revolve around modern racism and fear mongering, and this is very timely in relation to modern racial tensions. "The speciesism is almost like colorism... Disney is saying that we need to change. [*Zootopia*] was just done beautifully," senior Mia White said. Simply, not many children's films have the courage to pull off something like this. "I thought it was great. [The mature themes] worked really well considering that it was a Disney movie," sophomore Nathan LaFramboise said. In being daring, *Zootopia* trusts that its audience cares about the underlying subject matter. At the very least, this movie could spark some meaningful conversations between parents and kids about race and segregation in today's world.

While this all sounds like it could easily fly over the heads of *Zootopia*'s intended audience of young children, it is handled very well; incorporating humor to ensure both parents and kids alike will have a memorable and enjoyable movie going experience.



Photo courtesy of Todd Cunningham



## 12 THE SPECTATOR

# Grind now, shine later: Berkley students striving for change in the gym

Drew Leshman '17, News Editor

The New Year's resolutions are long underway, and people are beginning to get on that gym grind. Whether it is lifting, cardio, or even stretching, gyms are constantly packed with people trying to make a difference in their lives. If you are just starting to hit the gym, or if you have been sweating on the elliptical for years, you need to understand what to expect before entering the doorway: all gyms bring something different to the table.

### Berkley Fitness Center

Out of all the gyms Oakland County has to offer, this is one to be the most aware. Home to many BHS students, here you will find a bunch of teenagers really just trying to look good. "We are really just trying to gain muscle. But don't let us get in your way, we are friendly on the inside," junior Sam Tomlinson said. For some, that means constant cardio and for others that means endless lifting with only one goal in mind: to look huge. Either way, don't let the sleeveless shirts, protein powder, or loud noise of slamming weights get in the way of your workout.



At the end of the day, a gym is a gym is a gym. It truly doesn't matter if you are surrounded by a bunch of obnoxious high school boys or old men in scrubs. However, if you do choose to join one of the fitness centers mentioned, be prepared. Joining a gym is a big step, as much of your time will likely be spent there, so choose wisely and have a great workout!

### LA Fitness

Some believe it to be the powerhouse of all gyms, and others see it as a place to go to show others that you take lifting seriously. Before entering LA Fitness, make sure you are up to date on your protein powder, pre-workout, and of course your lifting routines. The last thing that you want to do is make a fool of yourself as nearly every person in that gym has under five percent body fat, something only the superior lifters can achieve. The moral of the story is to not let LA Fitness be the first gym you ever join.



### Planet Fitness

Along with the Berkley Fitness Center, at Planet Fitness you need to be open to all possible situations. As it is a strictly judgment free environment, there is no need to care what other people think. "Planet has every machine I could ever want, and I don't have to worry about the meatheads judging me," senior Gabe Blatz said. Here you will find pizza Mondays, bagel mornings, and a big bucket of tootsie rolls staring you down on your way out. A gym is a gym and just like any other fitness center, it will get the job done if you're there to work hard.



Photo courtesy of Katie Cross, Justin Flood, Annie Silver, and Emily Wolford

## The perfect classroom: where students would want to learn

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

Most students have one class every day that they look forward to going to the most. Whether it be the material, the teacher, or the classroom environment itself, this class placed above all others in the ranking has a certain attraction to it. So what are the different types of classrooms, and what separates the mediocre ones from the favorites?

**The Awkward Silence Class** - Typically a morning class, this is one in which no one really does a substantial amount of work. Usually, a teacher is in front of the room trying to lead a conversation, but fails to get one started. He or she will make a claim or pose a question and stand around for seemingly hours without being able to get a response, but in reality, the time elapsed is a mere ten seconds. Sophomore Kenzie Ashburn said, "The teacher sits there and says 'the awkward silence is good, you guys; it's good for learning!' and it makes me super uncomfortable." This isn't because the students do not care, it is simply that discussion-based classes in the morning are nightmares for the majority of teenagers and teachers.

**The No-Control Class** - On the opposite end of the spectrum is the classroom where everyone does whatever they want. They have their phones out on top of their desks, knowing that there are no consequences. The teacher talks, and whoever wants to listen does, but most of the class just sits on their phones and engages in side conversation. Then, the teacher will pass out a worksheet or some sort of individual work, and kids move around to go talk to their friends and nothing gets accomplished. Sophomore Dom Luca said, "People are up dancing... You never really learn anything because it's too distracting." This class is often referred to as being "a joke" or a "blow-off."



Quietness in the Awkward Silence Class.



Many on the floor in the No Control Classroom.

**The Painfully Boring Class** - Often confused with the awkward silence class, however this one just has uninteresting material. The day is typically filled with some note-taking, with the teacher asking sub-questions that the same three or four kids respond to, while everyone else tries to keep their heads up and focus on taking the notes. Occasionally, a good teacher will provide some spotty comedic relief, but after a few seconds of laughter, it is back to reality. For most students, it means diligent note taking, or giving into the temptation of a nice, mid-day nap and getting the notes from a friend later. Senior Gabe Blatz said, "[The class] is so slow paced... the teachers are not as prepared as they should be and you kind of have to teach yourself."

**The Perfect Classroom** - This is the class everyone looks forward to all day. It is an interesting topic, everyone in the class gets along, and the teacher is more understanding of students and their priorities. This means that they do not encourage phone use while they are lecturing, but the occasional usage while doing individual work is fine. Volunteers to participate in class vary on a daily basis and their hands are always up, ready to contribute. Additionally, the workload is challenging, but not too challenging. Senior Abbie Baker said, "[The teacher] involves all of the students, but there's not a lot of pressure."

The bottom line is, most students genuinely want to learn. But sometimes, the material is too challenging or too easy, or the teacher gives too much freedom or not enough. The perfect classroom has a balance that allows students to learn interesting, challenging material while still being able to enjoy the class and get along with everyone else in it.



Students nap in the Painfully Boring Class.



Ms. Chelsea Lupenec and her Perfect Classroom.

# A day in the life of the Berkley Biker Gang

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

Ahh, the BBG. No, not B'nai B'rith Girls or Burning Baked Goods, I'm talking about the Berkley Biker Gang. If you take a stroll down the Berkley halls, you'll probably run into at least one BBG member. They're not too hard to find either: black and white vans, wonderfully combed hair, ripped skinny jeans, a tie dye shirt, a beanie, and probably a smart phone or a peace sign at hand. Because the BBG is such a well known name throughout Berkley, I took the liberty in attempting to become their friend. This was my adventure with sophomores Dawson Malone, Troy Borman, Michael Martin, and Jack Welsh.

Some would say that the BBG are pretty intimidating people, but really they are just a group of guys who care about loyalty, brotherhood, and style. Going into this, I expected it to be an awkward and an uncomfortable experience for everybody, but instead, they were very welcoming and warm. They made me feel like an honorary member of their "gang."

Before meeting with them, I made sure I had my friends by my side for moral support. Juniors Maddie Koster and Clayton Gilbert were kind enough to join me in my journey for journalism.

I began by picking up Maddie, and from there we drove to Clayton's house, and he came out styling a large tub of Ramen of which he proceeded to eat in the back seat of my car. Afterwards, we didn't know what to do with ourselves because the BBG was not

ready for us, so, while waiting, we drove around Huntington Woods. After 30 minutes had gone by, we decided to go to a nearby park in Oak Park to pass the time. We took a nice rest on the swing set and then headed down to Papa's Pizza (the BBG's designated meeting spot) to hang with the BBG. After some nice warm pizza and zero conversation, we decided to go back to the park to hang out.

We walked side by side, and took a nice stroll around the park. Before things got awkward and silent, Clayton sparked up a conversation with some educational facts about anacondas. BBG member Dawson Malone revealed that if an anaconda were to pop up next to him, he "gonna bounce" (it is difficult to keep up with their lingo, but I am 84 percent positive that that means leave). After the educational talk about snakes, we shared a bottle of Diet Pepsi and headed our separate ways.

I learned a total of three things while spending a memorable twenty minutes with them (besides new slang words): 1.) Dawson does not like snakes. 2.) They have other modes of transportation other than bikes. I am very disappointed I never got the opportunity to ride bikes with them. 3.) I don't actually have a third one; it's just that three sounds better than two.

Thank you BBG + junior Nour Mohammad for letting me become a member of your crew; it truly was boolin'.



## @MMSILLYKID

Michael Martin is a sophomore at Berkley High School. You can see him roaming the halls, stylin' his black and white Vans. He is a lover of soccer and spaghetti. Martin has five siblings and loves to chill with his friends.

**Birthday:** July 26

**Favorite chick flick:** *Crazy Stupid Love*

**Favorite food:** Lamb Chops

**Favorite country:** Mexico

**Starbucks order:** Vanilla latte

**What it takes to be a BBG member:** "You have to be a good friend, you've got to be there for your homies and loyal. You gotta have style, ya know. So that means like no sweatpants, gotta wear those jeans. Being in the BBG means family and brotherhood, so you have to embrace it."



## @DAWSON\_1999

Dawson Malone is a sophomore at Berkley High School, but you can often catch him doing tricks at the Modern Skate Park. Malone likes to strut his stuff in tie dye clothing and slim straight jeans from Urban Outfitters. Malone's favorite color is red.

**Birthday:** Nov. 23

**Favorite chick flick:** *House Bunny*

**Favorite food:** Sushi

**Favorite country:** United Arab Emirates

**Starbucks order:** Double chocolate chip frappuccino

**What it takes to be a BBG member:** "Well you've got to be gnarly, and you've got to ride a bike. Most importantly, you have got to know how to have fun."



## @MYBESTMONKEY

Jack Welsh is a sophomore at Berkley High School. He is a movie fanatic and is interested in any critically acclaimed movies. Welsh does not have an all time favorite color because he loves all colors of the rainbow. He is the oldest of three boys and he is currently living the life.

**Birthday:** Feb. 2

**Favorite chick flick:** *Titanic*

**Favorite food:** Chicken wings or pizza

**Favorite country:** Switzerland

**Starbucks order:** "I've never been there in my entire life."

**What it takes to be a BBG member:** "Not much I guess. Well you have to be a strong leader and an influential person. Being in the BBG is a constant party and always a good time."



## @BUTTERCUPS\_TROY

Troy Borman is a sophomore at Berkley High School. He has stylin hair and a beautiful smile. He likes to spend his time on the soccer field, scoring goals left and right.

**Birthday:** Nov. 4

**Favorite chick flick:** *Romeo and Juliet*

**Favorite food:** Pizza

**Favorite country:** Germany

**Starbucks order:** Caramel frappuccino

**What it takes to be a BBG member:** "It takes courage and loyalty...and that is pretty much it."



**P.S.**

If you ever want a newbie biker you can contact me at Fluffyfroggy@comcast.net. - @AnnieMaeSilver



# The ~~HOT~~ or NOTs of March

## Fuller House

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

Woah, baby *Full House* is making a comeback with a Netflix original series sequel to the long-running television series called *Fuller House*. This new program features the same characters and basically the same storyline, but with reversed genders within the cast, making it its own show. With everyone from the original series making an appearance (with the exception of the Olsen twins) in the first episode, it made the transition for fans from *Full House* to *Fuller House* as smooth as possible. Juniors Emma Green said, "I love how they made it so much like the original version because it reminds me about how good of a show it was. It is extremely cheesy, but it being cheesy is what makes the show what it is, [and it] gives the show personality." *Fuller House* is seriously a blast from the past, with the same quirks and wit as before, but with a whole new feel. *Fuller House* undoubtedly super exceeded fans' expectations, though the original will always have a special place in everyone's hearts. There is no doubt that the second season will be just as good as the first, if not better. Hot dog!

## Hello Kitty

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

Hello Kitty? More like Goodbye Kitty. Hello Kitty has been an iconic children's animated character since 1974, long before any of us were born. However, it makes no sense why this simply drawn cat has stayed in demand. Wait, just kidding, she is not even a cat—regardless of what her name implies. The girl, who looks uncannily like a cat, does have a TV show, yet it was not an important or memorable part of anyone's childhood. She just sits there on a plethora of merchandise, creepily staring at everyone who walks through the aisle of any. Also, for those who have never seen the show (the majority of people) the girl is not drawn with a mouth. If Hello Kitty is not thought to have a mouth, how can it have its own TV program? And why is Kitty in her name if she is not meant to depict an actual cat? Hello Kitty serves no purpose besides being an annoying animated girl that confuses everyone by looking like a cat.

## Adidas

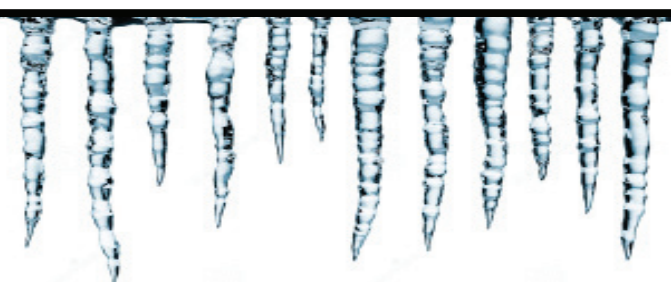
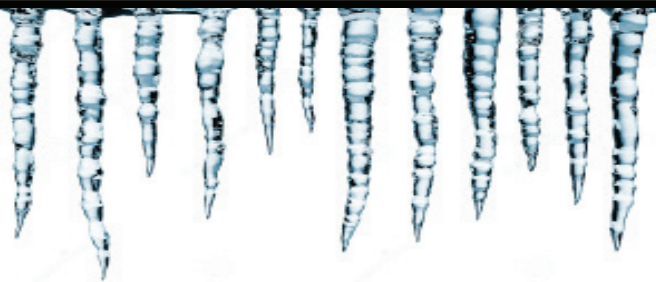
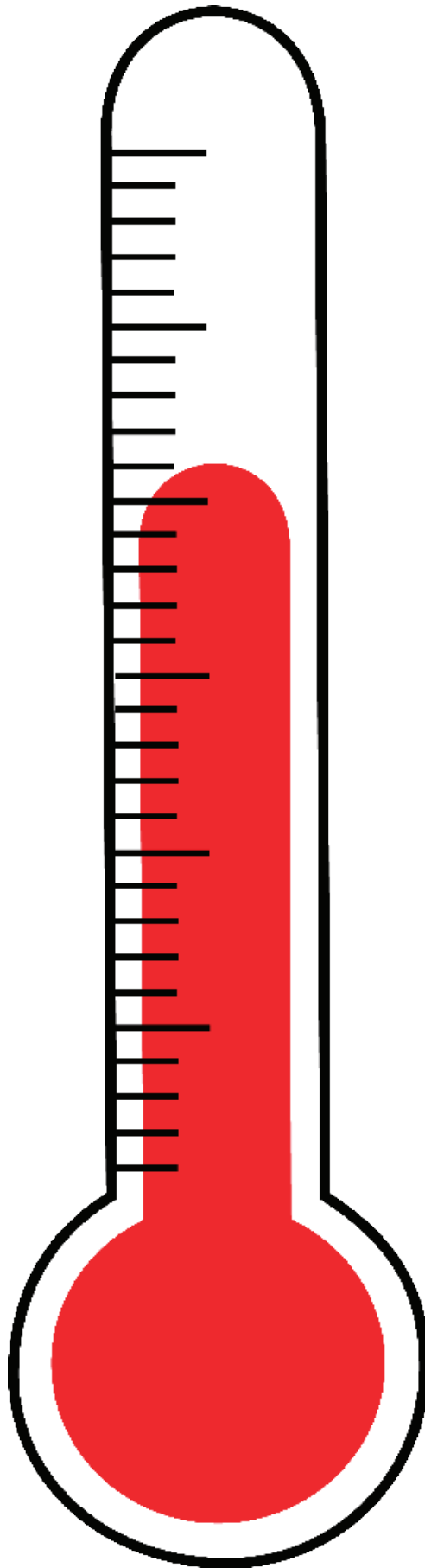
Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

"Yeezy Yeezy Yeezy just jumped over jumpman," Kanye West said in his recent song, "*Facts*," a diss track against Nike. Since Nike released Kanye from their franchise, his addition to the Adidas team has skyrocketed their sales. In the past year, Adidas rose 17 percent of its value and recorded a first quarter record. While Nike's sales are still far ahead of Adidas, its popularity in the hallways has reached a new level. New lines like the Y-3 brand, an Adidas designer brand created by Yohji Yamamoto, an award winning Japanese fashion designer, and the Tubular series, are very popular among high school students. "I enjoy that they embrace the future of high end fashion with Y-3 along with the comfort of their shoes," junior Bryson Payne said. Other than just footwear, Adidas' training pants, a sweatpant with a tapered ankle that was formerly only popular for soccer and other forms of physical activity, along with graphic t-shirts and sweatshirts, have become fashionable everyday staples of many students' style. Although the swoosh is still on top of the sportswear business, Adidas's recent popularity is soaring and shall continue to do so.

## Daylight Savings

Katie Cross '17, Assistant Photo Editor

When it comes to second semester, students can start to feel a sense of unrest. By the time March rolls around, spring sports, studying for AP tests, and the usual endless hours of homework tend to bog down students. The last thing students need is to lose a precious hour of sleep, but on March 13, Michigan sprang forward an hour. With the stress of school and the absence of sleep from which teenagers already suffer, Daylight Savings just made it worse, and not to go without mentioning that Daylight Savings benefits almost no one. "I really value my sleep; I go to sleep early every night so that when I wake up in the morning I can function properly. Losing that hour is a big loss," junior Katie Baron said. Everyone is already adjusted to their set sleep schedule, so to go and mess it up is a big inconvenience. Most people get annoyed with teenagers regularly, but teenagers with less sleep are even worse. Almost any high schooler would agree that when it comes to sleep, every hour counts.





# Delicious dishes in the Motor City

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

The city of Detroit is not desolate or struggling to get by anymore. There has been a definite revival of the art, music, and food scene. It seems as though there is an amazing new restaurant popping up every other day, while some have had serious staying power and have been Detroit staples for years. Here are a few of the best Detroit eateries that everyone should try at some point. After all, they are only a few miles down the road.

## Selden Standard

Located on Seldon Street and 2nd Avenue, two blocks west of the Fisher Theater, this restaurant has made its mark since opening in 2014. Executive Chef, Andy Holloway, has put his vast knowledge of food into every dish, bringing new and exciting flavors to Detroit. He was a contender for the prestigious James Beard award, served as a chef in France, California, and even right here at Michael Symon's Roast. All of the dishes are small plates and are easily sharable so that everyone can have a little taste of everything. As soon as one walks in, the vibrant atmosphere is immediately felt, and the understated design adds a clean and polished feel to the experience. The food is "inspired by [their] love of fresh, local flavor," and the menu changes with the seasons to ensure the best ingredients are being used. Named Hour Magazine's Restaurant of the Year, Selden Standard is definitely something every Detroiter needs to experience.



Photos courtesy of Brenna Houck and Marvin Shaoumi

## Johnny Noodle King

Johnny Noodle King gives a whole new take on the concept of Ramen Noodles. They take this cheap, simple, and delicious food that everyone knows and loves to a whole new level. One can order their noodles "brothed" or "sauced" with various additions of vegetables and meat. The great aspect of this place is that if a certain ingredient is missing or disliked, one can simply add or take off whatever they want. It is located a little ways outside of the heart of the city, on West Fort Street, and is inside a quaint little building that provides an intimate feeling without claustrophobia kicking in. Senior Sophie Steinbock said, "It's a small place but the food is amazing and it's really just a great overall experience." Johnny Noodle King is worth the slight trek for its elevated and delicious comfort food.



Photo courtesy of Rashida Tlaib

## Slows Bar-B-Q

Slows is a long time local favorite of Metro Detroiters. While its first location opened on Michigan Avenue, Slows' popularity allowed it to open locations in Grand Rapids, a to-go place in Midtown, Ford Field, and even a food truck. Slows was made famous for some of the best Bar-B-Q in Detroit, or even in all of Michigan. From pulled pork to smoked brisket, every meal is accompanied with five world class sauces so that the diners can choose the flavor they are in the mood for. Another perk of this place is that it is not expensive for the amount of food a person truly gets, meaning one can get, essentially a feast for under \$20. One downside of this place is that because of how amazing it is, the wait can be upwards of an hour and a half on a Friday or Saturday night, so putting a name down and keeping busy until the table is ready or just going on a weekday is recommended. Senior Chloe Church said, "I remember the food was really good and it seemed like 'the place to be.'" Slows was ahead of the trend when it came to opening restaurants in the heart of Detroit, and has become a staple of the city's food culture.



Photos courtesy of Ki Lee O'Brian and Freddy Pace

## Wright and Company

Finding this restaurant is almost as exciting as eating there, as it is hidden on the second floor just above the John Varvatos store on Woodward in Downtown Detroit. Chefs Marc Djozolia and Dave Kwiatkowski bring world class cuisine to this contemporary Detroit spot. Chef Djozolia worked under celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck for 20 years and was nominated for the James Beard award for best chef in the Great Lakes region. Serving up small plates, it is encouraged that instead of ordering one meal per person, the table should order various options and sample each dish. Wright and Company offers both exotic and familiar flavors on their menu, from potato chips to braised oxtail. One downside of this place is that they do not accept reservations, so going on a weekday or a day when there is time to spare is recommended. Get friends together and make the trip into Detroit for this delicious dining experience.



Photo courtesy of Victoria Araj



## 16 THE SPECTATOR

# What about year-long scho...

## Wait, keep reading!

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Some rumors are circulating about whether or not BHS is looking to switch to an all-year school schedule, on account of the introduction of air conditioning in the near future. However, this should all be prefaced by saying that there are currently no concrete plans to switch to an all-year schedule in the near future, the administration is merely considering it as an option, according to Principal Mr. Randall Gawel. That said, as this format of schedule is becoming more common, it is important to know how it works and what the possible ramifications of it could be.

According to Education Week, a newspaper covering news in education, in the 2011-12 school year, the most recent year for which data is available, about four percent of K-12 schools in the United States operate on an all-year schedule, totalling about 3,700 schools. In this format, the three-month summer vacation would be replaced by several smaller breaks, perhaps one or two weeks, throughout the year. There are certain pros and cons to this system, and just the mention of it is likely to get some people riled up. So before jumping to conclusions about this system, consider what it has to offer.

### Advantages

"In general, school calendars are based on 1800s model of agrarian society... our structure is fairly outdated when it comes to a school year calendar," Gawel said. The current school calendar was created so that school children would have summers off to be able to help their parents tend the crops on their farm. There is no practical reason to have the entire summer off. It can, in fact, be a disadvantage for many students, as they begin to lose the information that they learned in the previous year. If school went on the entire year with more small breaks, students would be better able to retain what they have learned. Gawel went on to say that an all-year schedule would provide greater flexibility in adjusting the time school is in session, creating the possibility for a shorter day or even a four day school week (again, this is all hypothetical). And with the new state law requiring that school must be in session 180 days out of the year, it is becoming difficult to have the number of breaks already given without forcing the schedule into late June. An all-year schedule has the potential to make this requirement easier to meet.

### Disadvantages

One disadvantage Gawel noted is that many students have time-honored traditions that take place in the summer, especially students who go to camp. Sophomore Amy Vodopyanov, who has gone to Camp Tamarack for the last four years, said, "Camp is a place in which people can go to express themselves for a few days [or] weeks... in school, it's hard for people to express themselves." Sophomore Lily Franklin built on that point, and commented, "Camp taught me how to be more independent and learn to do things more on my own." Having school in at least some parts of the summer months would make this more difficult for students to take part in activities that enrich their personal lives. Certain types of learning are simply not conducive to the classroom setting, and taking opportunities for that away could be damaging to the development of some students. Other objections that exist to this system is potential for students to suffer from classroom fatigue that would go unmitigated without a long summer break. There is also the issue of implementation. As more schools update their infrastructure, as BHS is doing with air conditioning, it will be easier for a system like this to become a reality, but it still poses a difficult transition for students in the future who may have grown accustomed to the way things are currently. The school schedule that the vast majority of the country operates on has been in place for centuries, and changing that will be no easy task.

This is a proposal that has the potential to be a major shock to the system. But if it brings a sizable benefit with it, it is certainly something worth considering. While there are no plans to switch to this kind of schedule for BHS in the near future, it could be a significant factor in the advancement of the United State's faltering education system fairly soon.

## Legoland Discovery Center makes a move to Detroit

Miles Berlin '18, Sports Editor

In the year 1932, a small toy company named Lego was created in Billund, Denmark. Since then, the company has blossomed into the biggest toy manufacturer in the world, expanding its brand name into video games, theme parks, and even museums.

Six years after the company was created, the first ever Legoland opened. Located right next to the Lego factory, it was meant to be an attraction to promote the company, but it turned into much more. Currently, there are seven Legolands around the world, with three more coming, the majority are going overseas, to places like Chuncheon, South Korea; Shanghai, China; and Toyko, Japan.

Slated to be opened in late March, Legoland is making its next appearance at Great Lakes Crossing in the form of a discovery center. Not based purely on entertainment, the center will offer unique indoor attractions based on the popular Lego bricks. There will be a slew of educational and interactive activities offered at the discovery center, which is geared towards families with children between three and 10 years old. The attraction will also include a 4D movie theater and a MINILAND area which will have small size replicas of important landmarks in the city of Detroit. "Many details throughout the attraction are themed for Detroit, and MINILAND is full of Detroit-based landmarks," Erik Schreefel, the marketing coordinator for Legoland said.

Great Lakes Crossing is the largest indoor shopping outlet in Michigan, having over 185 stores and restaurants, making it the perfect place for the Lego attraction to flourish. The mall recently added a large sea aquarium, housing over 5,000 different species of underwater plants and animals. "Legoland Discovery Center Michigan is going to be a huge hit with the community, due to the high volume of visitors; we expect that all tickets will need to be pre-booked online and that we will not be selling walk-up tickets," Schreefel said.

Once the discovery center has officially opened, Great Lakes Crossings will solidify itself as a premier destination for children and adults alike, with a wide range of attractions that appeal to all.



Photos courtesy of Erik Schreefel and Graham Todman

Children in Michigan are ecstatic for the new Legoland.

# Springing into a new season

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief and Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

As the crisp spring air finally makes it way to Michigan, the BHS spring sports seasons are beginning to start up once again. These are the most anticipated players of the season for each team for success, for tennis, softball, track and field, golf, baseball, and girls soccer.

## Tennis

Tori Nowak

Years on Varsity: 4



**Team's Previous Year Record:**  
6-4

**Previous Season Stats:** Team MVP, 2015 All-League

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"We have our strongest team in my high school career this year, so I am looking forward to making an unexpected impact at states this year."

## Softball

Sheridan Kent

Years on Varsity: 3



**Team's Previous Year Record:**  
20-15

**Previous Season Stats:** All-OAA, All-District Second Team

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"I am looking forward to Senior Night versus Royal Oak, and I am also looking forward to battling Troy again for the league title."

## Track and Field

Ryan Schildcrout

Years on Varsity: 3



**Team's Previous Year Record:** 2-2

**Previous Season Stats:** Ran a personal record in the 1600 meter (5:09) and in the 800 meter (2:16)

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"I'm looking forward to improving on my mile time from last year and to working hard in general."

## Golf

Jake Radom

Years on varsity: 1



**Team's Previous Year Record:**  
5-5

**Previous Season Stats:** 18-hole average: 74, and 9-hole average: 37

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"I'm looking forward to being able to play the sport that I love everyday in warmer weather, while having high expectations for myself, and the season."

## Baseball

Ryan Austin

Years on Varsity: 4



**Team's Previous Year Record:**  
10-16-1

**Previous Season Stats:** 300 BA, 1.5 ERA, 6 HR, and 62 RBI

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"I'm really excited for my Dad to be my coach my senior year."

## Girl's Soccer

Emily Wolford

Years on varsity: 4



**Team's Previous Year Record:** 8-10-2

**Previous Season Stats:** N/A

**Most Anticipated Moment of the Season:**  
"I'm really excited about team dinners and getting to know the younger players while enjoying my last year on the team with my friends."



# A disappointing season: The weakest year of college basketball

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

In a relatively weak year of college basketball, a Cinderella story upset is still possible this March. No teams are safe, especially since tournament games are played at neutral sites. Unlike last year, where Kentucky went undefeated until their final four game, and Wisconsin, Arizona, Villanova, Virginia, Gonzaga, and Northern Iowa all finished the regular season with three losses or less, not one of 337 Division I basketball schools have less than four losses.

Basketball powerhouses like Duke and Kentucky are out of the top ten and the number one slot in the country has been occupied by six teams, one shy of the single season record. The teams in the AP Top 5 throughout this season have lost 37 total games, 21 of them against unranked opponents. In the AP Top 10, teams have lost a combined 74 games, the most of all time. "It is just a weak class this year. They don't have any teams that can consistently dominate games like Kentucky and Wisconsin did last year. Many teams just don't have the depth to succeed at that high of a level," junior Sam Tomlinson said.

Part of the reason behind this wide-open year of basketball is due to the school selection of the freshman class. With the class of 2015 already being a weak grade to begin with in terms of talent, those who are at the top of the list decided to take their talents outside of the powerhouse schools that usually dominate the recruiting contest. Number one recruit in the country and freshman sensation Ben Simmons, who is projected as the number one overall pick in this year's NBA draft, chose to continue his basketball career at LSU. Simmons chose the Tigers, a team with a fairly mediocre basketball program in the past ten years, having only made the tournament three times in that time period, over schools

like Kentucky, Duke, and Kansas. Both Jaylen Brown and Ivan Rabb, two of the top six forwards in the class, chose the University of California Berkeley, another mediocre program that finished just 18-15 last season with no post-season play, after having offers from almost every top school in the nation. Other schools like Mississippi State and South Carolina landed impressive recruits, but were unable to produce a successful season. These recruits that were stolen from powerhouse schools that could have been used to renew their dominance, ended up allowing for the open landscape this season.

Besides the elite recruits that committed to random schools, the top recruited freshmen that did commit to the best basketball programs in the country just simply have not produced. Kentucky freshman Skal Labissiere, who was the number two ranked recruit in the country, has had a disappointing season this year with the Wildcats. Cheick Diallo, a freshman at Kansas who was the seventh best rated freshman in the country, is averaging less than three points per game.

Although this season has not been as dominated by select teams, the results have balanced the level of talent throughout the country. "The teams at the top of the rankings are legit, but the talent level is distributed throughout the nation. This is going to cause a lot of upsets during the tournament," sophomore Corey Zimmerman said. This has led to the large amount of unpredictable upsets this season, and the absence of dominant teams challenges the success of higher ranked schools as the tournament begins. Seed rankings become less meaningful and this March will definitely be full of madness.

## Detroit soccer team finds their new stadium

Jake Kreinbring '16, Website Editor

As summer draws closer, sports fans across the world get ready for some of their favorite teams to begin playing again. With baseball starting up back up, the European Cup, the Copa America, and the 2016 Summer Olympics just around the corner, many people are ready for the hectic TV schedule and will be planted on the sticky couch for days on end. To many, this state of not moving and watching as many sports as possible is a good experience, but others may want to get out of the house and enjoy some sporting events in person, and one Detroit sports team is looking to make going out for a game more accessible than ever.

Detroit City Football Club (DCFC), a fourth tier American soccer team, decided that after playing their first few seasons at Cass Tech, they needed a change. The team was consistently selling out the stadium due to their increasing popularity among Detroiters and the limited seating availability. So, the owners met and decided that for the 2016 season, they needed more space. The stadiums in the surrounding area could have supported the team, but there would be no permanent home for le Rouge, until they stumbled upon Keyworth stadium in Hamtramck.

Keyworth is currently owned by Hamtramck Public Schools, and was in no condition to host events as large as DCFC was looking for due to structural issues with the stands, along with a plethora of other issues that are not uncommon to a stadium that has been in use for around 79 years. So, without a home and with their best option looking rough, the club looked to the fans.

The owners asked the fans for small donations on crowdfunding websites to make this stadium dream a possibility for the coming season, but the money they were looking for was not pocket change. They needed a minimum of \$400,000 to begin to make changes to Keyworth. Fortunately for the club and fans alike, this goal was not only met, but surpassed by more than \$300,000. By the deadline for their fundraising on Feb. 15, DCFC had raised \$741,250, which is enough to not only have the team up and running with a fixed and structurally sound home for the 2016 season, but enough to make Keyworth a

nicer stadium than it ever was before.

With their new stadium, new kits, and new players, this season is sure to bring about more great goals, more wild fans, and more history surrounding this powerhouse of a soccer team.



This is an artist's rendering of what the new stadium is going to look like.



## MAKING SENSE OF BERNIE AND TRUMP'S EXTREMES

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

The 2016 presidential race has been extraordinarily eventful and controversial. Dozens of candidates, a wide array of political views, and one particularly polarizing figure have caused the race for the White House to turn into a sideshow. But where is all this really coming from? Obviously outspoken businessman Donald Trump has played a big part in the pandemonium, but despite what the media is saying, he is not the only important thing happening in this election.

On the Democratic side, what seemed like a guaranteed landslide victory for Hillary Clinton has turned into a competitive race with Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders. In fact, while Sanders and Trump seem to be polar opposites, they are using a lot of the same tactics in an effort to gain the support needed to win their respective party's nominations. Both are gaining success by playing off of the narrative that our country is declining rather than improving, and that portions of our government need to be overhauled. Whether you believe that this narrative is right or wrong, it has definitely been the main thing dividing the presidential candidates. After Clinton won the South Carolina primary she went after Trump's campaign slogan by saying, "Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again. America has never stopped being great." Clinton is taking the other side: her campaign preaches that we may need to tweak certain things about our country, but it certainly is not broken. This similarity between Trump and Sanders is very important, but what is more telling about our current political landscape is how the two candidates frame the sources of our country's problems.

For the sake of narrowing the argument down, I have decided to focus on the issue of unemployment, because it is an issue that impacts high school students now, and once they enter the workforce as full time employees.

In Trump's case, his solution is to blame America's problems on others. To kickstart his campaign, The Donald made the now infamous comments about Mexicans. He claimed, "They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems [to America]. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists." Trump later extended his bold stance on immigration by saying, "I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words." Regardless of where one stands on the political spectrum these are some extremely bold statements, but the greatest revelation is his tendency to place the blame on others. The reason the Republican party is so worried about immigration from Mexico is because they believe said Mexicans are taking jobs that Americans once had. Trump has neglected this. Instead, he is riling people up by spitting crazy quotes to be published by every media outlet. Instead of making unemployment the centerpiece of his campaign and attempting to solve it by making it harder for companies to move abroad or hire illegal immigrants willing to work for under minimum wage, Trump has attacked the Mexicans and blamed them for our problems. Trump's movement is centered around complaining and placing blame rather than coming up with rational ideas to improve the country.

From first glance it would appear that Bernie Sanders's political revolution is similar to the Trump movement. Both candidates want radical changes made across the board and both have gained massive followings because there are a lot of people who agree with their ideas. All of that is true, but Sanders attacks our nation's problems in a completely different way. Like Trump, Bernie also believes that unemployment is a big issue facing our country. In order to solve this issue he believes that by rebuilding America's infrastructure he could kill three birds with one stone. On his official website, [Berniesanders.org](http://Berniesanders.org), he spells out his plan by saying, "I have proposed the Rebuild America Act, to invest \$1 trillion over five years to modernize our infrastructure. It would be paid for by closing loopholes that allow profitable corporations to avoid paying taxes by, among other things, shifting their profits to the Cayman Islands and other offshore tax havens. Importantly, the Rebuild America Act will support more than thirteen million good-paying jobs – jobs that our economy desperately needs." Not once in this plan does he waste time talking about how Mexicans are criminals or that he is a great negotiator that can force Mexico to build a wall. Instead, Sanders lays out a logical plan to rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure, to prevent corporations from escaping taxes and becoming too large and powerful, and to create 13 million good paying jobs.

Now, both of these plans are probably a bit optimistic. The chances of either of these exact proposals actually being put into place is a long shot, but clearly one makes more sense and is more productive than the other.

Additionally, it is important to note that Trump and Sanders are not the only two options or even the best two options. All of the potential 45th presidents of the United States have different ideas of how to solve the issue of unemployment. The point that I am making is that while these two "extreme" candidates are taking most of the headlines, Trump is not focused on the real issues, but rather on who he can blame for our unemployment problem. Sanders, on the other hand, it coming up with productive ideas, which is better even if you think that his plan is too ambitious.

It's not hard to see why Donald Trump is appealing to some people. His mostly uneducated, white, independent base of supporters is fed up with seeing people around them succeed while they are getting paid very modest wages working typical jobs. I am asking these voters to reconsider who they plan on voting for in the general election. It is understandable that many people are looking for a drastic change in our economy and Trump and Sanders are the two candidates that have made that a priority, but again one is clearly offering more logical and practical solutions than the other. Think really hard about who you are voting and what that person stands for. Trump is about blaming our problems in others while Sanders is about putting real policies into place.

## LOOKING BACK ON THE LAST FOUR

Nicole Doctoroff '16, Managing Editor

In less than a month, I will be turning 18 years old. I will officially be an adult. I can finally call myself out of school and waste my money legally on lottery tickets. Technically, my parents have very little control of me, and in less than six months I will be living with very little supervision on a college campus. Yes, this all sounds great, and yes, I am so excited. However, this also means the security of my childhood is ending.

My daily routine of almost 12 years, that I have grown so accustomed to is suddenly stopping. Going to school, doing whatever after school activities, having my mom's home cooked meal as I am doing homework, taking a shower, then sitting in my bed probably doing more homework, and then relaxing by watching some *How I Met Your Mother* are soon to be days of the past. So, as you read this sappy column by a soon-to-graduate-senior, take my advice as you continue through your years here at BHS, or just your years at home.

As cliché as it sounds, I look back and regret not spending more time with my parents. There will always be many parties in the future. I mean, you have four years of partying after high school. However, your parents have been the ones who have loved you unconditionally. They are trying to let you have your space, but realistically they probably do not want to let you go. Hang out with them. Show them they you have appreciated all they have done for you, and show them how much they mean to you.

On a similar note, not going to one social gathering is not going to affect your social standings with anyone. If you are just tired, and would rather sit at home and watch Netflix then just do it. There are going to be so many more parties even just in high school that you can go to, you are really not going to miss out on anything. They are all the same anyway. Too much energy is wasted on fearing of missing out, while you really should just rest anyway. Do not do anything out of social pressure, and instead, stick to who you are. And if who are is wanting to stay home one night, then that is great.

While taking time to yourself is great, make sure you do make time for your friends and tell them how much you care about them. These are the friends that have helped you figure out who you are. These are the friends that were there for you, and brought you food when you were sick. These are the friends who made a 'welcome home' sign and put it on your door after a summer abroad. These are the friends who have not only dealt with, but embraced and loved your quirks. These are your friends you have been through it all with. Never hold grudges for too long. Confront them if you are upset, but do so rationally with kindness. You have a finite time left with most of them, and you should make the most of it. Tell them that you love them, and tell them that you are thankful for them.

Do not hate your siblings. They are your built in best friends and understand the trouble you are in with your parents. They have been there before. So, share your clothes with your sister-it won't kill you. Play basketball or video games with your brother-it will end up being fun. Tell them you love them. Let them be there for you, and make sure you are there for them. Do not think "our relationships will fix themselves later." Try to have good relationships for little time you have left to live with them. It will make life better for you, and easier.

Also, I wasted so much energy in high school fretting about certain situations alone in my head. I never wanted my parents to view me as weak, or to know that I needed help. But in reality, your parents are going to be the ones who actually know what to say. Your friends may help for a second, and they may be good listeners, but your parents have experienced what you have experienced. They have gone and gotten through hard situations, and somehow they will have words of wisdom that will actually make you feel better. It may take a little extra courage to talk to them about something personal, but it will help.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned throughout my adolescence is that everything blows over and passes. Things come and go in phases, and most of the time sooner than later whatever you are stressing out about, is not worth all the stress. Whether you are in a fight with your parents, or you feel disliked by your friends for some reason, it is going to pass. Your friends like you, and if they happen to not, go make new ones. Your current ones are not worth the stress if they are mean. People like you. Your parents will always love you. When it comes to school, try your best but if you get a bad grade that too shall pass. Nothing is forever. Stay rational, and keep that in mind. It is all going to be okay.

While all of these things are coming to an end, I have also realized that no one fully grows up. At 18 you are considered an adult; however, I think that I will always be a child at the heart. Harry Potter will forever bring me joy, I will always love animated children movies, and rainbow sprinkles will never cease to make me happy. Just because my 'childhood' is ending does not mean me, or any of us that are moving on, have to stop loving what we always have loved. Spend your time here taking advantage of your childhood, but do not necessarily be scared of being an adult. No one expects you to leave behind what has made you happy for so long.



# Make the world great again

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

Last April, I wrote an article criticizing the tenets and teachings of nationalism. It was never published due to space considerations, so I am having another crack at it now. Plus, it really was not written that well and was largely designed to show off my “extensive” understanding of global politics in the 20th century (please forgive me). Since the end of the last school year, some stuff has happened. The media isn’t really covering it so much, but the 2016 election cycle got underway and the candidates are voicing their opinions, trying to make an impression on people. Weak attempt at tongue-in-cheek humor aside, the campaign of one individual in particular shows us some interesting things about nationalism. But the last thing I want this discussion to be is just another high schooler harping about the politics of the moment. I would much rather it be just another high schooler harping on politics in the abstract. So this is the one and only time I will mention his name. As you read on, consider the campaign slogan of Donald J. Trump, emblazoned upon that unsettlingly red hat stuffed on top of the glorious comb-over: Make America Great Again.

Nationalism as an ideology is making a transition into becoming somewhat of a political bad word. Nationalism is a frequently utilized tool of many bad people and bad regimes. Nazi Germany was nationalist, the Soviet Union was nationalist, Vietnam is nationalist, North Korea is nationalist, and Iran is nationalist. But the United States, in many ways, is more nationalist than not. Consider the ideas that are fed to us from a young age and relentlessly reinforced throughout development. They include, most prominently, ideas about being the best and about working hard so that you and you alone will make it in this world. So, we get the best grades, be in the most extracurriculars, go to the best college, and for what? What do those things do but give you empirical proof that you are better than everyone else by the standards set forth by society? But I digress. This idea of being the absolute best, alone at the top, is permeating throughout society. It is an attractive idea to a lot of people, evidenced by certain events alluded to prior, and that idea spreads to a national level. People want their country to be the best. And in that way, the United States is absolutely nationalistic.

Those who argue against nationalistic sentiments, myself very much included, delight in pointing out all of the autocracies and atrocity-committing regimes that built themselves around nationalism. It breeds this idea of “us vs. them” that is bad for the whole world. In fact, that was the idea that the first iteration of this article was founded upon. And it is absolutely true, and it is an idea worth considering. But going on and on about that won’t contribute much to this conversation. Instead, I would rather go on and on about why nationalism is damaging to the country itself who practices it.

This idea of self-advancement at all costs, of stopping at nothing to become (or stay) the best, is a dangerous game to play when talking about state-building. When a nation does what the United States has—stayed one of the most prosperous nations in the world for the majority of its existence—close-mindedness has the potential to spring up. This idea that “we are the best” can quickly lead to “everyone else is worse,” which breeds xenophobia and yes, nationalism. But in what way does that hold us specifically (us being the United States) back? Well, when you start thinking that way, it becomes very difficult to change and to embrace new or different ideas.



If we concern ourselves only with self-advancement, as nations with a nationalistic ideology are wont to do, considerations of what is best for the world as a whole or for future considerations tend to disappear. Consider the actions of the CIA in Guatemala during the Cold War. In 1954, democratically elected Jacobo Arbenz was overthrown by a CIA-sponsored coup d’état. He was replaced by a military dictator, the first in a line of U.S.-backed dictators who waged bloody civil war on its citizens. This was done only because President Arbenz planned to nationalize, or place in the hands of the government, the fruit industry. Up to that point, the fruit industry in Guatemala

was controlled by the United Fruit Company, now known as Chiquita, which used brutal labor practices and debt slavery. The coup was engineered only to protect the interests of the United Fruit Company, and led to a series of civil wars that claimed innumerable lives. The profits of a company based in the United States was placed above the lives of people from another country. That is not in the interests of creating an equitable and free world. But because the few people it helped had the same country on their passports as the people making the decisions, and the many people it hurt did not, it was carried out. Having regard only for your own interests or the interests of your nation at all costs hurts the whole world, yourself included. By installing a military dictatorship, the cause of fascism was advanced, and the world became that much less free.

But that was then. Why should we think that the same things would happen today? Because they do. The United States works with and supports authoritarian leaders in the Middle East, most notably the ruling family in Saudi Arabia, in order to protect United States oil interests. Turning a blind eye to the suppression of the rights of women, homosexuals, and political dissidents so that it is easier to access fuel is selfish, un-American, and damaging to the cause of freedom in the world. When the suppression of the rights of human beings is less important than ensuring gas is under \$2 a gallon, America can no longer claim to be a defender of democracy and freedom. That delusional impression drags the whole world down.

Look, there is nothing wrong with loving your country. But that can be taken in excess. French statesman and World War II resistance leader Charles de Gaulle drew an important distinction when he said, “Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first.” It is time to dispose of nationalism; it no longer serves the purpose it once did.

So what is to be done? We must start by not placing such intense value on being the very best. Our concern should not be with making America great again, it should be with making the world great again. Or great for the first time. It really depends on your outlook. International cooperation is the way forward; it does not serve us to try to become prosperous alone. And this is not a uniquely American problem. It takes many to not cooperate, and the world has non-cooperation in spades. When we can get over ourselves, admit that we aren’t the best, nor do we necessarily want to be, that’s when the real progress can be made. There is so much more in the world that needs addressing than making an already extraordinarily wealthy country even more powerful.

I am just a teenager with some radical-left views, but take these ideas into consideration. We don’t have to be the best. Reject that idea! Look beyond the national borders! Have some humility for your place in the world. It may just serve you well.