

THE SPECTATOR

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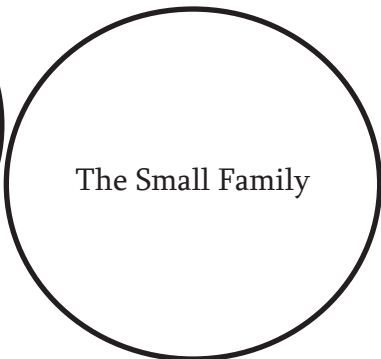
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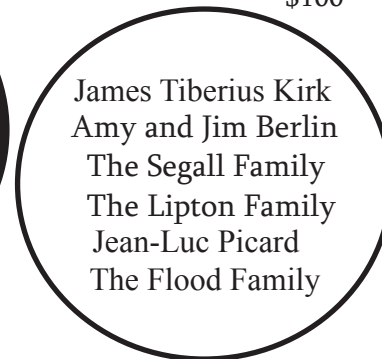
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U.S and Cuba start new age of foreign relations, leave rocky past behind

Aaron Berlin '16, Business and Ad Manager

After pledging to restore U.S. and Cuban relations in 2014, President Obama and his family made a groundbreaking visit to southern neighbor Cuba in late March. Obama is the first sitting president to visit Cuba since President Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

Since the 1960 Cuban Revolution, the U.S. maintained an embargo against Cuba banning all economic, commercial, financial, and social interaction with them. The embargo stopped all Cuban exports and imports, and prohibited tourism to the country.

During his time on the island, Obama acted as a true tourist, learning the culture and exploring the big cities with his family and trusted guides. To add to his already culturally rich experience, Obama sat in on the pastime shared by Cubans and Americans alike: baseball. The POTUS had the pleasure of sitting next to Cuban President Raúl Castro during an exhibition between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National Team, but politicians around the U.S were not pleased with this friendly meeting, especially in the wake of other international emergencies in Brussels and Nigeria. During an Argentinian press conference, Obama brushed off this criticism, claiming that allowing terrorists to get in the way of building foreign relations is a sign of weakness.

When the embargo was originally placed on Cuba, the government was run by communist dictator Fidel Castro. Since then, he has handed down power to brother Raúl Castro, who modernized Cuba's government and economy. However, some are still hesitant about partnering with the Castro family. Junior Zack Schwartz commented, "I like it in the sense that he's trying to fix a broken relationship, but I do not support the Castro family." He continued, "[The Castros] are terrible people. They detain citizens and they execute some for no reason."

While some of the trip seemed to be for pleasure more than business, Obama delivered a speech to the Cuban people in Havana outlining what these future relations will entail, and asking Congress to repeal the significant embargo. He called for more human rights and basic freedoms that have been denied to Cuban people for many decades, such as freedom of speech and right to assemble. His speech was well received by many Cubans who are ready for change. Senior Josephine Pittman is hopeful for this proposed change in relations. Pittman said, "What happened during the Cold War is over now. Improving relations will bring peace and economic prosperity to both nations." Ultimately, Obama is calling for democracy in Cuba, but while that may be many more years away, this seems to be a good starting point.

Royal Oak: a growing city with growing disturbances

Adison Kaiser '18, Assistant Photo Editor

On March 20, at around 3:30 a.m, a shooting in downtown Royal Oak injured one civilian. The shooting occurred at Hookah Joe's, a lounge on Washington Avenue, where three customers allegedly got into an argument inside the establishment. Two of the customers had firearms with them and that's when security removed them from the premises. Even after the men had been escorted out, the conflict had not been resolved.

Once the suspects were outside the building, one of the three fired a gunshot. The gunshot nearly missed a bystander. The other suspects then got into a vehicle and shot three to four times into Hookah Joe's, however, only the cashier was injured as he was standing near the window when the shots were fired. The bullet grazed the cashier's head, but he did not suffer severe injuries.

With new attractions being brought to Royal Oak, violent disturbances, like this shooting are starting to become more common. The new establishments are bringing younger, less local crowds that are causing more fights and negative commotion.

These disruptions include a burglary that took place between March 17-20 and ended with 45 arrests in Royal Oak. "Royal Oak has a very happy and upbeat environment, and it's sad to hear about something like that happening. There's been so much senseless violence in our world at the time, so I can't say it surprises me," freshman Cambree Machiniak said.

Royal Oak is known as a place that one can go and hang out with friends or family to shop or go out to eat, but with these new attractions bringing younger, larger, more intoxicated crowds, violent disturbances are becoming common, and this shooting is an instance of how these disruptions of peace are becoming more frequent.

Terrorist attacks leave 32 dead, 300 injured in Brussels

Emma Weisberger '16, Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, March 22, the city of Brussels was hit with tragedy when 32 people were left dead and 300 were injured as a result of organized terror attacks. Two bombs went off in the Brussels Airport, the largest airport in Belgium, killing 11, and an hour later, Maelbeek Metro Station was struck, killing another 20 civilians.

Prime Minister of Belgium, Charles Michael Davis, said, "What we feared has happened—we were hit by blind attacks." Terror collective ISIS has claimed responsibility for these attacks, and Brussels has raised its terrorism alert to the highest level. Belgian officials have declared that there will be three days of national mourning in the wake of Tuesday's events.

The airport attacks were carried out by two suicide bombers who detonated 37 seconds apart in the departure lounge of the airport, near a security checkpoint. There was a third bomb left behind that was intended to have the heaviest explosion, but it failed to detonate as planned. According to Belgian Federal Prosecutor, Frederic Van Leeuw, the bomb exploded moments after the bomb squad arrived in a controlled explosion. No one was injured as a result of this third bomb because of actions taken by the authorities at the scene.

A photo was released of the bombers at the airport and one suspect has been identified as ISIS bomb-maker Najim Laachraoui, who was believed to have died at the airport. Another man has been identified as Brahim el-Bakraoui, who is also believed to have died in the explosion. The third man in the picture has yet to be identified but is believed to have placed a bomb and left the scene. Experts are looking to find him as it's likely he acted as a guide to the others, making sure that the plan was executed correctly.

The metro attack occurred in a three-carriage train as it was moving away from the platform. The bomber was identified by his fingerprints as 27-year-old Brussels native, Khalid el-Bakraoui. Located in the heart of the city, the station's close proximity to European Union headquarters makes this attack a symbolic target for terrorists.

A raid of the suspect's home was conducted, where officials discovered explosives, nails, and an ISIS flag. They also found the laptop of Brahim el-Bakraoui in a trashcan in the street. Police raids have uncovered an increasing number of people involved, including a 32-year-old Frenchman involved in the Paris attacks.

European officials say that they have several men detained in numerous countries that all have connections to the perpetrators of both the Belgian and Paris attacks. French and Belgian officials have sought further U.S. assistance as they attempt to discern the extent of the terror network responsible for killing 130 in Paris and 32 in Brussels. Investigations have led officials to believe that the terror network extends far beyond these two countries. "We know there are other networks," France's President François Hollande said the day after a french national was arrested after being suspected of belonging to a militant network. "Even if the network which conducted attacks in Paris and Brussels is about to be neutralized, there is always a threat hanging."

There are many serious measures taken by officials to ensure that no more lives are lost in the wake of these terrorist plots. Europe is on high alert and people are warned to be careful when making travel plans in the upcoming months.

• **Terrorist attacks in Grand-Bassam, Ivory Coast, Ankara, Turkey, Mastaba, Yemen, Maiduguri, Nigeria, and Istanbul, Turkey, have occurred in the last month as well**

• **Civilians from Belgium, Colombia, Peru, France, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the U.S. fell victim to these attacks.**

• **90 people are still in the hospital undergoing treatment**

4 THE SPECTATOR

Leicester City shocks EPL by rising to top of the standings

Bennett Hart '16, Managing Editor

Imagine the New York Yankees acquiring both Bryce Harper and Mike Trout, or the Dallas Cowboys getting Tom Brady and Adrian Peterson. Only a couple of teams in each sport would dominate. Well, this is what European soccer has become. Top clubs such as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Juventus, and Manchester City have enough money to buy all the best players, and there is nothing in place to prevent this. Unlike most American sports, there is no salary cap to limit what teams can spend on players. This allows teams to spend as much as they want, with rather loose financial fair play laws being the only restrictive measure.

For fans of the world's most prestigious clubs, there is nothing wrong with this. On the other hand though, for families who have supported their hometown clubs for centuries, it seemed like the glory days of English soccer were coming to an end. Despite all of the wealth inequality giving smaller clubs hardly any chance to compete, Leicester City, a side with 5,000 to one odds to win the title when the season began, is giving these very fans hope.

Last season, Leicester were in last place as late as of mid April, but have now miraculously made it into first with nine games remaining in the current season. After narrowly surviving relegation in the 2014-2015 season, Leicester hired a new manager, 64-year-old Italian Claudio Ranieri to his 16th managerial position. While Ranieri had experience in England as the Chelsea manager and at other big clubs like Juventus and Atletico Madrid, it seemed a bit odd hiring a 64-year-old that has yet to win a league title in a top five league (meaning La Liga, Premier League, Bundesliga, Serie A, or Ligue 1).

Leicester's next crucial move came when Ranieri and his staff decided to deploy a simple, yet effective counter attacking system. The way Leicester plays is actually shockingly easy to understand. They deploy 10 of their 11 players in their defensive half of the field and allow their opponents to attack them first. While this seems counterintuitive, it actually works in Leicester's favor. With so many players packed together in one half of the field, it

becomes extremely difficult for Leicester's opponent to find space to get a shot off. Captain of the varsity soccer team, senior Zach Hobson said that effort is the key to their system. "It's their work rate [that makes them so successful]. They are relentless defensively and are great at winning the ball back," Hobson said. Once Leicester gets the ball back, they immediately begin to sprint down the field, and attempt to strike quickly before the other team has an opportunity to get most of their players back on defense. Both Jamie Vardy, the one man that stays in the other team's half, who is one of the fastest players in the league, and Riyad Mahrez, the front runner for the player of the year, are counted on to finish off these opportunities. Despite only getting a few of these key chances a game to catch the other team off guard, they have been lethal this year in converting those chances, and have therefore been wildly successful.

Another reason Leicester has soared to the top of the standings this season is that they played less games compared to their title rivals. Not qualifying for any European competitions based on their finish last season, and getting knocked out of the FA Cup and the League Cup before the teams trying to catch them at the top, meant that Leicester had more time to rest between Premier League matches. As a result, they have had hardly any long-term injuries despite playing the same lineup nearly every game this season. Not resting key players periodically can be risky, but it has definitely paid off for the Foxes this year.

Even between the genius tactics of Ranieri and the luck that fell their way, it is remarkable that Leicester has come this far. Amazingly, the price of their entire starting 11 combined cost less than Erik Lamela, an average player on Tottenham, the team currently behind Leicester in second place. Leicester is an incredible story that will be talked about for generations. Hobson said, "If my favorite team of Arsenal doesn't win, I'll definitely be cheering for Leicester because it's a great story." Whether you are a soccer fan or not, what is happening in a small town in England is certainly something worth paying attention to.



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APPLE UNVEILS NEW IPHONE: SMALLER BODY PACKED WITH POWER

Cameron Cece '16, Feature Editor

On March 21, Apple unveiled their newest product, the iPhone SE, at the Apple keynote event hosted in Cupertino, California. This iPhone is similar to the iPhone 6s, but with a much smaller body.

In the wake of increased media attention following the San Bernadino case, Apple CEO Tim Cook revealed the Spring 2016 product lineup to the public. During the conference, the company shifted its focus from making larger phones, back to creating an iPhone that is smaller, but packs the same power as the iPhone 6s. With an A9 processor, this is the fastest phone with a screen size of four inches. "This iPhone is basically the [iPhone] 5, but reinvented to fit the technology of their newest phone. A lot of people enjoyed the iPhone 4 and 5 due to their size," junior Ethan Bishop said. The new trimmed down model also holds a 12 megapixel camera. The Phone will be priced at \$400 (considerably lower than the price of the 6), and will be available in silver, space gray, gold, and rose gold with a fresh metallic finish. The phone will only be offered in 16 and 64 GB.

This new phone will be less expensive than the 6s and will fit the needs of a niche audience who emphasize the importance of the smaller screens. "This phone obviously will not be as popular as the

iPhone 6 or 6s. The model is reverting back to the five instead of going forward. It is nice that Apple made an extra small version of the 6, but really Apple did not change a thing," Bishop added.

Apple also unveiled the new iPad Pro and new bands for the Apple Watch. The price of the Apple watch has dropped to \$299 while Apple claims that the iPad Pro will be "the ultimate PC replacement."

While the public waits for the tech giant to release the much anticipated iPhone 7, these products should tide over the masses; however, Apple still has yet to wow the public like they have done in the past. Now that it seems the company has shifted its focus yet again, no one can expect what the tech giant will do in the future.



Photo courtesy of Apple

IGGY AZALEA DEBUTS A NEW SONG; NOBODY CARES

William Shulak '16, Hot or Not Editor

In her newly released single entitled "Team," Iggy Azalea both raps and sings out the lyrics, "Baby I got me/And that's all I need/Baby I got me/Only friend I need/Playing on my team." Azalea's message is quite ironic as it reportedly took nine people to write this song (technically 12 if you count the three people who contributed to the sampled songs.)

When analyzing Iggy's lyrics, it should be obvious to many that Iggy is no stranger to critique and controversy. It is not a stretch to say that most white rappers, let alone rappers (male and female) in general, are ashamed to call 'Iggy Iggs' (white and Australian) one of their own due to accusations of cultural appropriation. In his single "White Privilege II," Macklemore was accused of dissing Azalea and others like Miley Cyrus for the same "taking of intellectual property, traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, or artifacts from someone else's culture without permission" that he too has been scrutinized for in the past.

Controversy started when Azalea was called out for her 2011 song "D.R.U.G.S." The song starts off with "Tire marks, tire marks, finish line with the fire marks/when it really starts I'm a runaway slave-master" and received flak from many fellow rappers. The whole controversy over "D.R.U.G.S" was the start of a long-winded twitter beef between Iggy Azalea and fellow rapper Azealia Banks over the lyrics.

From suspected use of 'black voice' to being targeted for cultural appropriation in general, Iggy has had a tough past couple of years. Due to constant chastisement from the hip-hop and music worlds, Azalea stated in a March 18 interview that she contemplated suicide in 2015.

What may seem like a grim story has a somewhat happy ending, as the release of "Team" has brought positive attention to Azalea. The music video for "Team" reached over seven million views on YouTube within its first week of release, and also saw a large number of plays on music streaming services like Spotify. This surge of excitement over her single demonstrates that Azalea's new album *Digital Distortion*, scheduled to release June 2016, may be a possible comeback for the rapper who has not released a solo single in nearly three years.

After performing "Team" live for the first time on Jimmy Fallon to positive praise, many still have mixed feelings about the artist despite large media attention. "I don't think [Azalea's] music is very personal...good rappers like Jay-Z talk about their lives without sugar coating it. Good rap tells stories, and songs like 'Fancy' don't do that," senior Skylar Tate said. Reactions like Tate's show that Azalea's problems might also lie with struggling to fit in the genre. In the end, it looks like this Aussie rapper may want to consider heading back to the land down under.

HAMILTON BRINGS POPULARITY TO BROADWAY

Miles Berlin '18, Sports Editor

In today's world of entertainment, television and movies rule over all other forms of entertainment. This moved the world of plays and Broadway shows down a peg, but one play is changing all of that. Created in 2009, *Hamilton* is a play about Founding Father Alexander Hamilton's life and the struggles that he went through making it to America, and how he became a main catalyst in America's revolution.

Composer Lin-Manuel Miranda is lead actor and creator of *Hamilton*, he came up with the idea after reading a biography about Alexander Hamilton's life. *The Hamilton Mixtape*, the first step of the award-winning theater sensation, was dropped in 2013, and it quickly gained popularity—enough for him and his crew to be asked to perform at the White House. Since the play's creation, the show has won numerous awards including a Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album and the Obie Award for Best New American Theatre Work. "The twist of this musical is how the actors portray an older seeming musical, with rap and hip-hop theme," sophomore and member of the Berkley Drama program Reggie Hawkins said.

As the popularity for the musical continues to grow, people all over the country are lining up to see Miranda's creation. He promised that the musical will be filmed and produced, so people can see the show without having to actually go see it in person. Celebrities such as Robert De Niro, Jerry Seinfeld, Julia Roberts, Paul McCartney, Tobey Maguire, Busta Rhymes, and Jon Bon Jovi have all made appearances at the performance of the musical.

Whether it is using the fast paced *Hamilton Mixtape* to teach history classes or bringing more popularity to Broadway, *Hamilton* and Lin-Manuel Miranda are making big moves in the entertainment community.

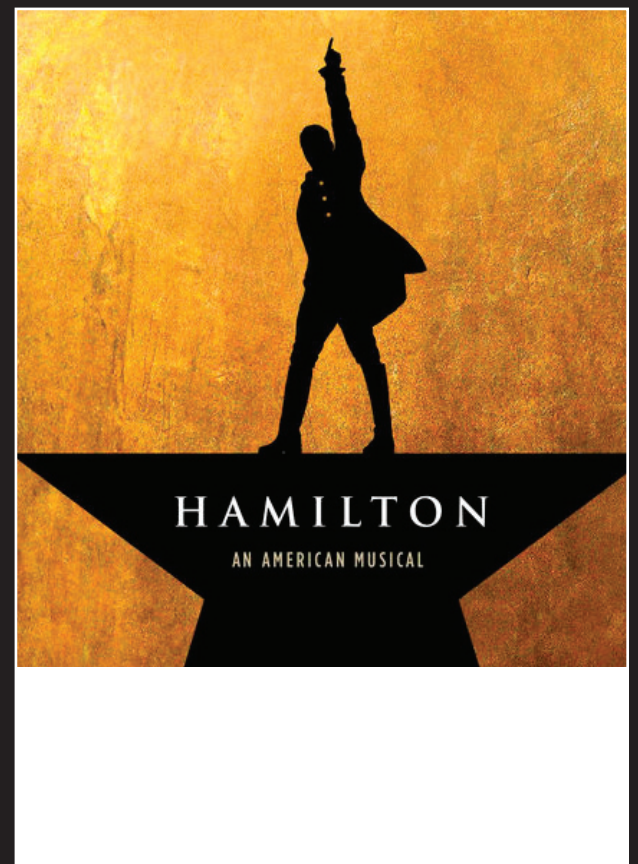


Photo courtesy of the New York Public Library

A SHORT GOODBYE TO THE BELOVED BERKLEY GYM

Justin Flood '17, Sports Editor

If you are a current Berkley Fitness Center member, it is time to find a new gym for the summer. For many, the 50 dollars a year membership and short commute makes Berkley the perfect gym. Although it comes with almost all the equipment an average teen lifter needs, there is no denying the fact that the gym could use some renovations.

This summer, due to the bond passing that grants Berkley an air conditioning unit, the gym will be closed for safety reasons during the installation. Senior Austen Wood said, "Hopefully the gym will undergo some helpful repairs during its time closed. I think with the tune up of some equipment, Berkley will be a great place to workout." In the

meantime, some of the equipment will be moved to Anderson Middle School, where one could continue lifting with their Berkley membership.

As summer is approaching, many people will start to look for new gym options, especially since most gyms offer specials for students during the summer. The gym is a place to lift with friends on their journey to reaching their fitness goals. Senior Zach Leonard said, "It is just not going to be the same during the summer. I love going up to the gym and lifting with my bros." It will definitely be a change for the regulars at the Berkley gym, but the awaited time for renovations could eventually be worth the while.

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- LA FITNESS: \$30 A MONTH PLUS A \$99 DOWNPAYMENT, SIX MINUTES AWAY FROM BHS
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- LIFETIME FITNESS: \$77 A MONTH PLUS A \$189 DOWNPAYMENT, 18 MINUTES AWAY FROM BHS

TAKING A GAP YEAR: GROW BEFORE COLLEGE

Zoe Blake '17, Student Life Editor

While a majority of high school seniors in this day and age head off to college immediately after high school, students often neglect to consider other options. Gap years, when spent doing productive things, can truly help a person grow and become more prepared for the college experience or even just life in general. Below, are a few programs a high school graduate could happily and financially participate in, instead of going off to college seminars and Big Ten football games in the upcoming year.



Travel In Country

Spend your time hiking the entire Appalachian Trail (2,190 miles). For the typical hiker it should take about five to seven months. You should start off at the base of the trail, in Georgia, during late April/early May. In addition to these logistics, you should take time to ensure that you are mentally and physically prepared. Learn more about becoming a 2,000 miler at the Appalachian Trail's website. Abroad



Volunteer In Country

Volunteer within the states through the program AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps consists of two branches, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA). The NCCC, travels to different places throughout the states in need of service, while VISTA stays in one place for the whole volunteer term. Most projects involve physical labor, such as removing invasive species, developing trails, and creating irrigation systems. However, the program can also skim away from such physically demanding forms of work, and volunteer through teaching and child care, which is less physically demanding. More information can be found online at the National Service website.



Travel Abroad

Away from the states, you can teach in Ecuador through the program REAL Gap Experience. The program lasts about four weeks, consisting of living and working in the Amazonian rainforest, gaining confidence, and learning responsibility through teaching, and a lot of outdoor activities like hiking. More information is available at REAL Gap's website.

SPRING TRIM PUTS ON A SELVAU AT BERKLEY

Adam Yaker '17, Opinion Editor

On March 24, Berkley High hit the dance floor for the Spring Fling dance for the first time in three years. This time though, the dance was put on by Berkley's chapter of Tri-M, the Music Honor Society. Since the ruling put into place by the administration that limited Student Leadership to one dance per semester, with the exception of prom, the leaders of Tri-M stepped up to provide another school dance for the students to enjoy.

Symphony Orchestra member and President of Tri-M, senior Jo Pittman said, "We had an awesome theme and a killer DJ, and a great group of people were there. It was a lot more work than expected, but I think everyone had a good time."

Pittman, along with senior Vice President Leah Pernick, were responsible for setting up the dance, arranging the DJ, and selling tickets, of which they sold out all 275.

Floral pattern shirts and Lei necklaces filled the Collaborative Center for the Hawaiian themed event. The

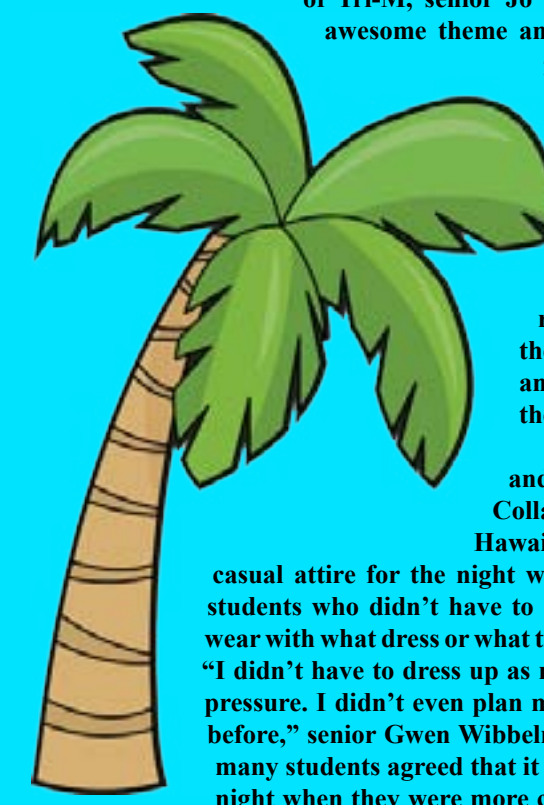
casual attire for the night was very appealing to many students who didn't have to stress about which heels to wear with what dress or what tie to match with which shirt. "I didn't have to dress up as much so there was a lot less pressure. I didn't even plan my outfit until like the night before," senior Gwen Wibbelman said. Like Wibbelman, many students agreed that it was a lot easier to enjoy the night when they were more comfortable rather than the

formal attire of Homecoming and Snowcoming. She continued, "It was more like a party than a school dance which was really fun."

The dance, which opened at seven o'clock, got off to a relatively slow start due to the awkward bright sky that glistened through the large windows of the Collaborative Center that faces Catalpa. Students were timid to dance in the light room, but as the sun started to set and the light dimmed, the dance moves broke out, looking like they came straight from a Luau in Honolulu.

Tri-M provided a great Thursday night that transitioned into a much needed long weekend. With the success of the night, hopefully it can become an annual event that will give students another school dance after the snow melts.

Photos courtesy of OneWorld365, Wikimedia Commons user Pluter and CNSCS



The Collaborative Center was filled during the fling with students in Hawaiian gear.

Photo courtesy of Samantha Smith

8 THE SPECTATOR

The last eight years: The successes and failures of the Obama administration

Kit Charlton '16, Senior Copy Editor

With all the hullabaloo about the upcoming 2016 presidential election, it can be easy to forget that the United States still has a sitting president. While the last eight years were certainly not the smoothest for the United States, they've been far from disaster. While looking forward to the next four years, it is important to look back and see where the nation stands after two terms of the Obama presidency.

Successes

Professionalism

Supporters of President Obama hail him for his standards of professionalism. Both he and his staff act in a way the people should expect from their president, and his White House has been largely free of scandals. He's shown level-headedness in decision making and firmness in his commitment to optimism and hope. Senior Andrew Belcher said of President Obama, "He has been not only professional but successful as a leader of this country. I think other presidents should use his administration as something to aspire to [be]." Even if your own thoughts on his policy and decision making are less sparkling, the standard of professionalism set by the Obama administration is still something to be admired.

Obamacare Affordable Care Act

While liberals and conservatives will likely debate until the end of time whether or not Obamacare is positive or negative for the United States, it was a major goal of the Obama administration that was fulfilled. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the rate of uninsured Americans in 2014 was 10.4 percent, down three percentage points from 2013, accounting for ~10 million people. If nothing else, the law is succeeding in what it was designed to do.

Job Growth

Among the biggest issues President Obama inherited was the 2008 recession. Depending on which metrics are used, the economy added between nine million and 16 million jobs under Barack Obama's White House, according to the Washington Post. Unemployment is sitting at five percent, and the recession is firmly in the past.



Failures

Guantanamo Bay

To compare President Obama's 2008 campaign promises and how things stand now, one thing will stand out: his promise to close the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba remains unfulfilled. The United States uses the military base to detain suspected terrorists. Reports from the detention facility show the use of torture and inhumane practices to get information out of the detainees. Amnesty International, one of the leading non-profit organizations for the promotion of human rights, called Guantanamo Bay "the Gulag of our times," and the United Nations has repeatedly called for its closure. Although he has succeeded in lowering the number of prisoners kept there, down from 775 to 93, the detention center remains open and continues its use of torture.

Immigration Reform

Another major goal of President Obama's 2008 campaign was to introduce immigration reform. Many attribute the fact that this has not occurred to the Obama administration deciding to instead pursue health care reform while the Democratic Party controlled both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It remains a defining issue in American politics and will likely be a top priority of the next president, no matter which way he or she leans.

Partisanship in Congress

In his final State of the Union address, President Obama stated that one of the few regrets he had of his presidency was his failure to stem the growing partisanship in Congress. Party divides are at their most intense now as they have been in decades, and gridlock continues to grow. This issue is going to continue to plague the United States regardless of the next administration, and it is unclear to what extent it will reach.



Photos courtesy of R.L. Grimes and Pete Souza

Every president, no matter what he or she does, will have high and low points. Looking back on Barack Obama's presidency, what it all comes down to is whether the United States is better off now than eight years ago. That is a matter for debate, but be careful to consider all the aspects of President Obama's two terms, including more than is mentioned here, before reaching your own conclusion.

Living with addiction: you're not alone

Annie Silver '17, Photo Editor

One in five kids in the United States are living at home with parents who are addicted to drugs and or alcohol. That one kid likely feels alone, scared and even responsible. If you are a kid living with addiction, know that you are not alone, it is not your fault, and everything will be okay.

Almost eight years ago I was the child living with addiction; my mother was addicted to prescription medication, so for the first eight years of my life my mother was physically present but not mentally. It was difficult to not be living with a well functioning family. Dad was at work, mom was in and out of rehab, and my siblings were constantly fighting. Although I did not realize it at the time, things were worse than I thought.

I was too young to understand what was happening to my family—specifically to my mother. I never really had anyone to talk to about it since I was in elementary school, and I am pretty sure that other kids did not know what addiction was let alone know how to deal with the situation. By the time I was nine, my mother had left for almost six months to get clean at a rehabilitation center.

While she was gone, I began to think that it was my fault that she had to leave in the first place. I thought I was completely and utterly alone in the situation. It was a weird and sad time for everyone involved, but especially for a nine-year-old girl.

Eight years later, looking back at my nine-year-old self, I now know that I was not the only one having to experience such an intense obstacle. No one is ever or should ever feel alone. About 76 million Americans are exposed to addiction in their families, and that is close to 43 percent of the United States population. I was just one of those 76 million people who was going through the same thing.

Ever since my mom became clean, my family has been actively speaking out about our story. My parents have given speeches, my father gives an open talk once a month at a rehabilitation center, and members of my family attend AA meetings weekly. Even though my mom is happy and healthy, we still make it a part of our lives because addiction is a family disease.

My experience is most likely different than those reading this who are dealing with addiction in their family, but if I have learned something from such a valuable experience it is that secrets and lies is what holds us down. It is the worst sickness of all, and having no secrets and no lies is the key to handling addiction in the family.

Help is readily available to anyone who is willing to ask for it, mainly because we have such friendly and warm people in our community. Principal Mr. Randy Gawel said, "Addiction can cause a great deal of confusion when you are growing up, and it has for many. Unfortunately, when you

are a child that is a time when you are the least equipped to deal with it. As a result, you act in ways that you otherwise would not with friends, in school, and at home."

Gawel added, "It is something that folks hide out of fear or shame, but is really something they should share, talk about, and seek to understand. I think our counselors and staff are amazing people who would help at a moment's notice, but they need to know. We'll listen, we'll try to understand, and we'll seek to the best help we can."

"It's not easy, but unfortunately many more people than we might suspect have personal experience with [addiction] and understand such a situation better than we might think," he concluded.

If you are "living with addiction" and you are looking for someone to talk to, please, turn to a friend, a teacher, a counselor, or even me. We are all here and would be more than happy to talk.

Just keep in mind that your loved one's addiction is not your fault; there are people just like you going through the same things, and asking for help is easier than you might think it is, and through my personal experience, it is extraordinarily helpful.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at annieslvr1@gmail.com. I am more than happy to help in any way that I can.

The five best books assigned by our school

Corey Lipton '16, Editor-in-Chief

Throughout high school, students are given a lot of books to read. Unfortunately, students often use websites like Shmoop or Sparknotes as a replacement for actually reading. Most of the time it is not that big of a deal, but in some cases, books assigned are actually worth reading. Keeping that in mind, here are five books that are assigned at Berkley High school that are worth the read:

Into the Wild

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer tells the story of adventurer Chris McCandless. In journalistic style, this book follows the tracks of McCandless as he travels across North America. Whether you think he is a noble idealist or a selfish jerk, this story is full of wonder, hopefulness, and tragedy.

The Catcher in the Rye

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger is read towards the end of English 10. Narrated by troubled teen Holden Caulfield, *The Catcher in the Rye* tells us a story about how to deal with angst and alienation. Through extensive symbolism, Holden becomes one of the rare characters that everyone can relate to, making this a quality read for all.

Cat's Cradle

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut is a masterpiece of satire. In it, Vonnegut satirizes global relations, the arms race, religion, the Cold War, and pretty much anything else that is problematic within today's society. This apocalyptic story follows narrator Jonah on his trip to write a story about the dropping of the atom bomb, which leads him on a few unexpected turns.

Lord of the Flies

Lord of the Flies by William Golding is the first book of the second semester of English 9. It tells the fascinating tale of a group of British children who are shipwrecked on an island. Through the boys' endeavors, the book teaches students important truths about human instinct, systems of power, and the dangers of both dictatorships and civilizations. This is one of the most entertaining books assigned by BHS, and is a quick and easy read.

Macbeth

Macbeth by William Shakespeare is one of Shakespeare's finest. It deals with power, prophecy, and manipulation. Shakespeare pits humility and self-advancement against each other, allowing the reader to see the inner workings of a mind while rising to power. The issue of morality while climbing the metaphorical ladder is and always will be relevant, which makes *Macbeth* a timeless work of literature.

Hypocrisy of idolization in popular culture

Josh Radom '16, Editor-in-Chief

From time to time, people referred to as “celebrities” in popular culture supersede their original talent based fame and find themselves in a realm of newfound influence. What can be debated is how and why these people decide to use their power. But what needs to be accepted as a truth is the fact that we, the consumers, gave them this influence.

Kanye West is the perfect portrayal of the hypocrisy that exists within the concept of idolization in popular culture. We, the listeners, customers, and fans are the only ones responsible for someone like West to even be able venture as far as he has into the music and fashion industry. Without the constant media, or excitement created for an upcoming project, Kanye West would not be as influential as he currently is today. Whether or not you like his music, fashion, family or anything else that he has used to climb to the position of true influence that he is in, there is no denying his significance in our society. This, positive or negative, is fact. When idols such as West are created and sustained for as long as he has been, the expectation for no increase in ego and power is extremely ignorant.

Many times, as a celebrity gains more of a following, his or her ego and range of influence grows as well. Unfortunately, this normally causes a backlash from the public. People think West is an arrogant, ungrateful

nuisance. However, they also buy his music and clothing, followed his journey to fame, and continue to add to his publicity by creating media frenzies before each and every one of his anticipated projects. These actions are therefore completely contradictory to their new, less respected, opinions of him after his climb to exponential fame. If people do not approve of all of the actions made by these ‘superstars’ they should not continue to purchase their merchandise as all that does is add to their growing empires.

But West is just one example. There have been many, and there will continue to be, many more like him who strategically take advantage of their influential place in society, whether it be in outlets of music, TV, or any other form of expression that set them apart from the rest of the popular culture industry. The only way to stop their reach of influence is to stop their ability to sell their products and gain attention, but if recent history is portraying the pattern for the upcoming future, the pop culture communities around the world will not be letting their idols go anytime soon.

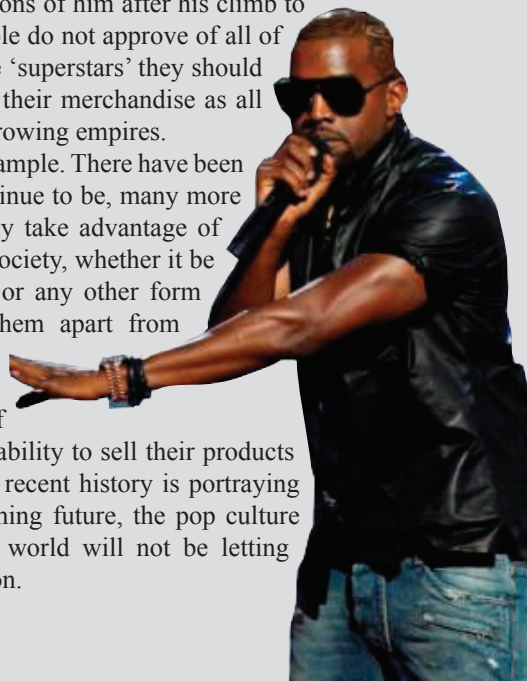


Photo courtesy of Erin Strecker



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2019: Bernie Sanders running for commissioner of NBA

Josh Segall '17, Feature Editor

Three years have passed since the defeat of Senator Bernie Sanders in the presidential election, but everyone's favorite senior citizen has been keeping busy. Sanders announced that he has decided to run against current NBA commissioner Adam Silver for his job via Twitter. Sanders has the majority of the youth support because of his radical agenda that will seemingly level the playing field for all teams.

With the Golden State Warriors having won their fifth straight championship this year, Sanders is determined to put an end to the historic run. “Listen, it is not fair that these guys can just keep winning every year. They have too many good players, and they need to give some up,” Sanders said in a recent ESPN interview. With the Warriors' signing of star forward Kevin Durant a few years ago, the team easily has the most talented roster in the league, and Sanders is outraged. Determined to prevent this from happening in the future, Sanders vows to implement a reality-fantasy draft.

Just like in the video games, all players will be free agents, and there will be a draft for all of the players in the NBA, with the draft order being selected at random. Sanders continued, “It is not fair that the 76ers have to endure the painful, inhumane struggling year after year

while other teams can just coast to the playoffs. It's time for a change.”

Long time Sanders supporter Saul Horowitz wrote a detailed essay in his English 9 class to back the case of the hopeful commissioner. It stated, “Bernie is the only candidate that truly fights for the people! If he isn't elected the whole NBA will go bankrupt and everyone will start playing hockey!” Horowitz claimed.

Commissioner Silver thus far has declined to comment on the potential upcoming election, but he did not seem overly concerned. For now, Sanders' campaign is rising in popularity, and in 2020 he may be rolling his wheelchair right up to the podium to deliver a victory speech for the ages.

“Listen, it is not fair that these guys can just keep winning every year. They have too many good players, and they need to give some up.”

THE ANTI-VACCINATION MOVEMENT NEEDS TO STOP

Cobian Gleason '16, Website Editor

It was March of 2012 when a young, Ezekiel Stephan, then only 19 months old, fell ill with meningitis and empyema. He passed away later during that month. It is only recently, however, that his parents are now undergoing a trial for not giving their son proper medical attention. After falling ill, his parents relied on home remedies such as ginger root, horseradish, and onion to cure him. They had a family friend and registered nurse look at their son, who advised them to take him to seek medical assistance. The parents then got echinacea from a naturopath doctor to boost their child's immune system. The naturopathic doctor also told them they should take Stephan to a real doctor. A few days later his breathing stopped and the parents finally called 911. He had to be airlifted to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, but there was nothing doctors could do at that point. The diseases that caused his death, meningitis and empyema, are both easily cured with antibiotics.

While Stephan's case is isolated and very rare, the death of even one child is one too many—especially when it could have been easily prevented. It should also be noted that his parents are not extreme anti-vaccinators in any way. They claimed they do go to the doctor if symptoms persist, and would be found on doctor's records. They believed Stephan was getting better from their own treatments and kept him home, but they were gravely mistaken.

The real problem is that there are parents like Ezekiel's who would rather choose natural solutions over modern medicine. Known as anti-vaccinators, these people blame medication, specifically vaccinations, for a range of health problems. One of their biggest arguments is that things such as the measles vaccine actually cause people to develop autism. They also are worried about certain ingredients in the vaccinations that can be harmful. Some simply believe that natural immunity is stronger than any type of immunity a vaccination can provide.

How popular are these beliefs? According to the Washington Post, a poll from the Pew Research Center showed that 83 percent of Americans believe the measles vaccination is safe, while nine percent think it is unsafe, and seven percent are unsure.

While nine percent of Americans may not seem like a large percentage, that can actually represent about 90 people in an 1000 person area, and can easily be higher in some places. The issue here is that when parents choose not to vaccinate their children, they not only put their kids' lives at risk but also put others at risk around them as well. The lack of immunizations is causing a resurgence in preventable outbreaks such as measles. It ruins what is referred to as "herd immunity." That means that the more people who get vaccinated, the less likely everybody is to catch a disease as a whole which ultimately prevents outbreaks of old diseases. Senior Dan Rice said, "People who don't get vaccines are more likely to get sick, and it could cause a lot of absences from school or jobs." Not getting vaccinated can also harm both production and schools.

The anti-vaccination movement needs to stop now. It has grown out of the doubt and fear of modern medicine. The only proof linking vaccinations to autism has been anecdotal at best, and there are countless scientific studies disproving the connection. Not to mention, vaccinations are safe for everybody, as they are tested for years before being put into use. Doctors spend years throughout college and medical school studying the human body and modern medicine. They can be trusted, as they certainly know more than any anti-vaccination fear mongerer. Diseases such as measles have not gone away. It is only vaccinations that keep them in the dark. For the safety of everybody, parents absolutely need to get their kids vaccinated.

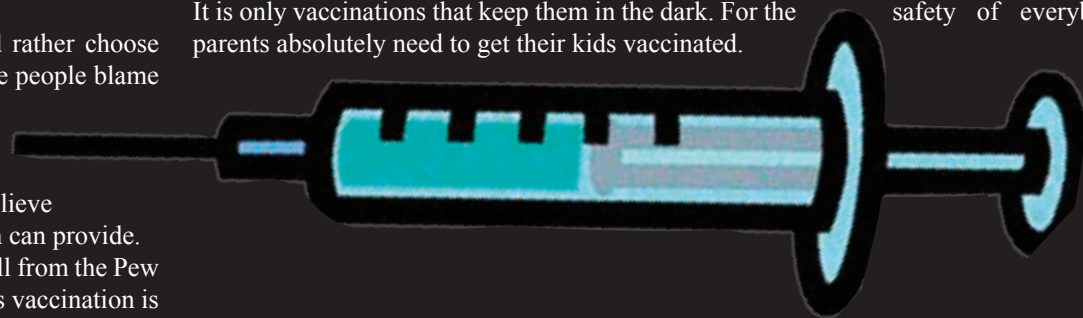


Photo courtesy of World-Artis Me

EXCESSIVE POLICE FORCE HITS CLOSE TO HOME: HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Katie Wolberg '18, Student Life Editor

The issue of police brutality is a major topic of discussion in recent times. Living in the quaint Metropolitan Detroit area, one would never think that this problem would arise so close to home. But, on March 17, 2016 in Royal Oak, a young man was unreasonably tazed and arrested outside the local Blackfinn Ameripub. As this issue comes to light, it raises the question: how much police force is too much?

On St. Patrick's Day, a young man in his 20s named Travis Hermiz was arrested for disorderly conduct. This altercation was filmed and posted on YouTube, showing about five officers push, pull, and eventually taze Hermiz. Junior Jane Wougamon retweeted the video of the incident and explained how she thought, "that police brutality has been a huge issue for the last decade. This video made these issues more relatable and real."

According to the Fatal Encounters organization, there have already been 293 Americans killed by police enforcement since the beginning of 2016. Cincinnati Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell said in an interview with CNN, "It's the most difficult policing environment in the history of our nation, but that doesn't excuse bad behavior... we have got to be right. We have got to be constitutional."

This issue raises the concern of the major problem of police brutality, and specifically regarding use of excessive force. In a recent sample conducted by the Police Foundation, 56.4 percent agree that it is not unusual for a police officer to turn a blind eye to improper conduct by a fellow police officer. The police are supposed to uphold the law, but doing so forcefully is not morally nor politically correct, not to mention illegal.

On the other hand, others believe that police officers have the right to use reasonable force. In an interview with the New York Times, former police officer, David Brooks states that "police serve by walking that hazardous line where civilization meets disorder." For many, it is hard to determine the discrepancies between needed and improper force.

In addition, the blurry video shows the law enforcement's seemingly excessive use of

force, however, it does not tell the whole story. All the video shows is the man getting arrested and tazed, not what happened before the police came. "I think this use of excessive force is messed up, and even though you cannot tell what the context of the video was, it seems absurd," sophomore Emily Sines said.

Even though the video does not show the issue to its full extent, this case and the actions of the police raise concerns that need to be addressed by the public. "In the eyes of today's younger generation, police symbolize fear not protection," Wougamon said. People who have turned a blind eye to this issue really need to realize that the excessive use of force is not only alive, but is continuing to increase around the country. Although it is hard for people to see the difference between brutality and practical force, the question of how much force is too much needs to be answered.



Hermiz was arrested outside the Blackfinn Ameripub in Downtown Royal Oak.

Photo by Annie Silver

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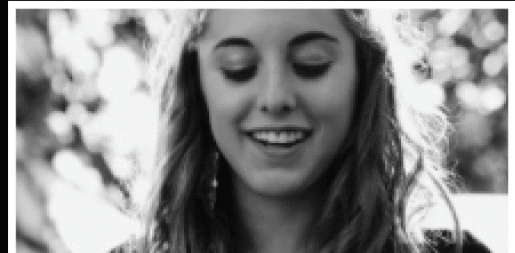
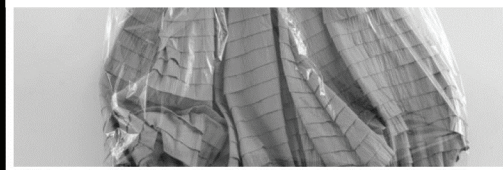
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