# The Badger Pause

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# How to choose the college for you

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

The college application and decision hype for Seniors is winding down, with the national deadline fast approaching on May first. Though that is not the end of the road for the current seniors, it brings closer the reality of the approaching decisions for this year's Juniors. Though many have just started visiting colleges of interest, it can be overwhelming and confusing when you have little idea of what to expect or look for. Your college search is ultimately up to you, however, there are certain characteristics and perks to look for that only the experienced can recommend in the place you may spend the next four years of your life. So Juniors, consider this your guide of what to look for on your college and campus tours.

McKenna Brown, a current Senior committed to Slippery Rock University, shared some of her qualifications: "Good dorms, good food, and a good student life was what I wanted in my college." As far as the educational aspect, she elaborated that a place which has and specializes in her major is important, "I'm not going to attend Harvard to get a degree in physical training." Not only is it important that they have your major, but the ranking and additional related programs for your major are important as well. If you have the option, on your visits or via email, talking to admissions, professors, or even current students involved in your areas of interest is a great option to help you narrow down the options. This is important, as Senior, Madalyn Timmons, emphasized, "Ask questions about the education they offer and try not to be persuaded by all the fun fluff and focus on the educational part. Because that's why you're going."

Beyond the classes for your major and otherwise, the college you choose to attend will also be your home for the next four, possibly more, years. It's important to be comfortable and feel safe there, as you do at home. There will most definitely be an adjustment period, whether it be to community bathrooms, or just having to walk further to get food, but overall, make sure you will be able to live with and become accustomed to the changes you are making. There's a rumor that when you step on to a college campus, even if just for a first visit, you will know if it's right for you. Senior Madalyn Timmons confirmed this, saying " If you like somewhere, you'll know it. If you feel comfortable, like you could possibly get that "home" feeling there." Whether or not this holds true for everyone I can't say, but here's to hoping it does. Overall, according to Gwen Losasso, a college Freshman, "You want it to be welcoming and like you could spend years there and not get bored or overwhelmed."




Photo courtesy of collegexpress.com

***Choosing the right college is very important for the future careers and opportunities.***

Now let's talk about the things that coming from living at home, and attending high school, prospective college students might not think of. For many people, college and dorm life will be a whole new way of living. When asked about some of her personal deal makers and breakers, Gwen Losasso replied, "Community bathrooms is a deal breaker. 24/7 dining or late dining hours is deal maker [as is food quality]." Additionally, "Good rec or gym hours [can be a] maker/breaker." Student life, in short, should also be an important part of the college choosing process. Though your college will be your home, the surrounding area will still be your town, making the type of town or city around your college important as well. Safety is the obvious cause for concern, but atmosphere, population, shops or activities, and events are all important too.

To be realistic, all, none, or a few of these things may be relevant to you in your college search, as each one is an individual process. However, for your parents sake, I will mention distance from home, including out of state vs. in-state tuition, transportation and all related costs, among other things are important to keep in mind as well. For many the choice will come down to tuition, but have an open mind, there is financial aid for those willing to seek it out, and it is also important to remember that a big price tag does not necessarily mean a better school. The main thing is, take it seriously, your education is what comes first, but also take into consideration all the opportunities you will have. College is about to be an exciting time in your life! Make sure you are happy and at a place where you can thrive.

# DIY grad party

by McKenna Brown, BP Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of bekicookscakesblog.blogspot.com

***The best snacks to have at any self-respecting grad party.***

Graduation Parties are just around the corner. Throughout the years I've been to some great parties and I'd like to highlight some simplistic yet outstanding "do-it-yourself" ideas.

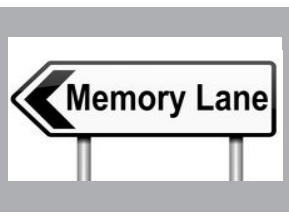
Photo Booth: Almost every grad party that I attended last year had some sort of photo booth. A great thing is that these photo booths don't need to be rented, just simply made. Materials include: a camera (easily a phone), a simple sheet for a backdrop (a white wall will do also), and props. Props may include silly hats, fake mustaches,colorful wigs, or even simple printables like food, emojis, or speech bubbles.

Graduation Cap Pops: These are my absolute favorite. You will need licorice red vines, peanut butter cups, Hershey bars, lollipop sticks, baking chocolate, mini M&M's, a styrofoam block, and scissors. First, freeze your Reese Cups after unwrapping them for about ten minutes, then begin melting your chocolate. While they're freezing, break up the hershey bars into squares and cut the licorice into shorter strands to be used as tassels. Lay out all of your materials in a line to be easily assembled. Then begin assembling the graduation caps. Dip the lollipop stick into your melted chocolate and stick into your peanut butter cup. Then, place melted chocolate on top of the cup and grab a chocolate square, placing it upside down on the Reese. Lastly, take an M&M and licorice, dipping them into the melted chocolate, and putting it on top of the chocolate square. Place into styrofoam.

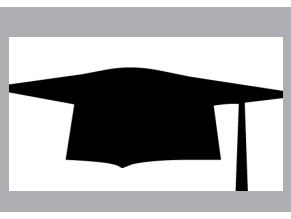
Signed T-Shirt: This is a bit self explanatory but if you plan on attending a college in the fall, buy a shirt from your university and have those who attended your grad party sign it and write their well wishes with a permanent fabric marker. It is a great way to remember who came.



Learning about the wonderful world of adulthood on page 3!




Confessions and school memories on page 8!



Info for graduating seniors on page 8!

# 2016 Prom Court

By Amelia Monroe, BP Staff Writer



Tyler Dennis

**What would you do if you were a girl for a day?:** I would wake up and get ready for 2 hours and then go shopping for 6 hours.

**What is your favorite word?:** Onomatopoeia

**What is your favorite school dance memory?:** When Lucas Kuhen started dancing in the middle of a circle at my Junior prom.



Jarett Young

**What would you do if you were a girl for a day?:** I would go to the spa and get my nails and hair done then get a facial and a massage.

**What is your favorite word?:** Dope

**What is your favorite school dance memory?:** When one of my friends almost kissed a random girl.

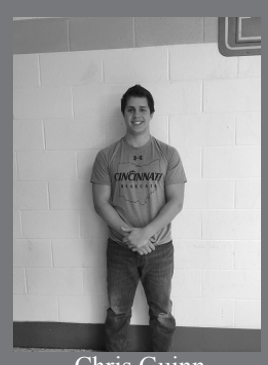


Devin Hupp

**What would you do if you were a girl for a day?:** I would go to a salon because never had nails done and it would be relaxing

**What is your favorite word?:** Preposterous

**What is your favorite school dance memory?:** Just having fun hanging out with your friends.

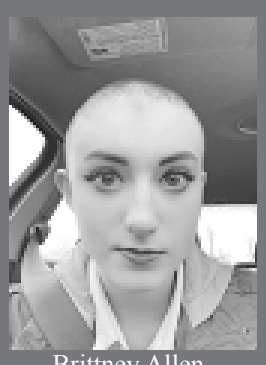


Chris Guinn

**What would you do if you were a girl for a day?:** On a weekend I would wake up, do my hair and makeup, then I would go out to the mall with all my girlfriends and we would go to all the stores buying everything we need with our daddy's money.

**What is your favorite word?:** No

**What is your favorite school dance memory?**: Walking across the football field for homecoming court my freshman year.



Brittney Allen

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Enjoy it. Go out and do guy stuff. Whatever guys do.
What is your favorite word?: Shanty
What is your favorite school dance memory?: I went to Prom To Remember at Ritz Carlton and had a really good time.



Sarah Luoma

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Hang out with the boys and go riding.
What is your favorite word?: No.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: When one of the girls started dancing with the dj.



Miranda Reytch

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Drive a motorcycle.
What is your favorite word?: Duh.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: No comment



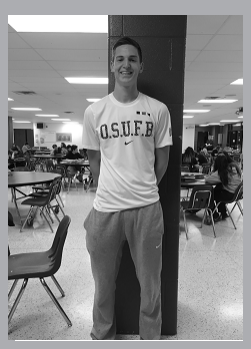
Michelle Sohm

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: I'd roll out of bed in the morning and throw on what I wanted and go.
What is your favorite word?: Intrigued.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: When Miss T breaks up grinding.



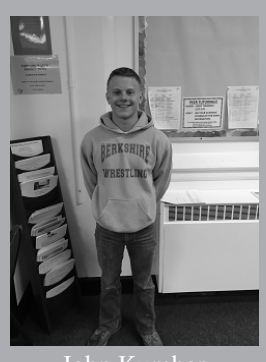
Spencer Adams

What would you do if you were a girl for a day?: Play Jedi mind tricks on men like all women do.
What is your favorite word?: Flabbergasted.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: Some kid was doing this dance move and slipped and fell on his face.



Emil Hess

What would you do if you were a girl for a day?: Wear a bikini and go tanning.
What is your favorite word?: Doe yahhh.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: Being fortunate enough to take the sweetest girl in the whole school.



John Kumher

What would you do if you were a girl for a day?: I would do the same stuff I do now.
What is your favorite word?: Groovy.
What is your favorite school dance memory?: Dancing with my best friends Emil, Kylie ,Logan and Mekaylie.



Aaron Pawlak

What would you do if you were a girl for a day?: I don't know just chill out.
What is your favorite word?: I don
What is your favorite school dance memory?: I was fist bumping and accidentally punched someone in the face.



Lauren Parrish

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Shave my face. Spray myself down with axe chop some wood roll around in the dirt.
What is your favorite word?: RIGHT
What is your favorite school dance memory?: I thought we were taking pics somewhere else for homecoming so I went to the wrong place.



Anne Ritts

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Hang out with my dudes
What is your favorite word?: Precious
What is your favorite school dance memory?: The kid I first slow danced with didn't know how to dance and grabbed me like a zombie.



Kylie Scott

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: Play a pickup game of football and eat lots of food. And then run around with my shirt off and date Katie Dingman.
What is your favorite word?: Pickleweasel
What is your favorite school dance memory?: When I walked in and realized I look better than everyone else. -Lol Just Kidding



Gabby Skolaris

What would you do if you were a boy for a day?: I would be a heartbreaker.
What is your favorite word?: Y'all
What is your favorite school dance memory?: Dancing in front of everyone.

# Liberal VS Conservative:

## The college controversy

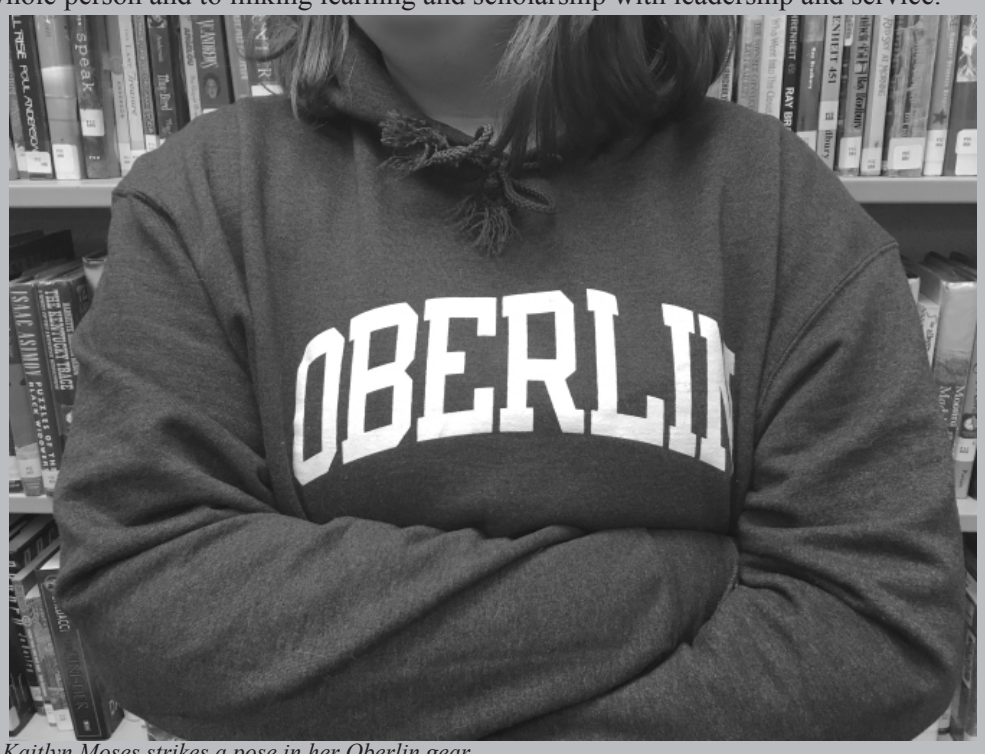
by Kaitlyn Moses, BP Staff Editor

According to Niche.com, six Ohio colleges made the list of the 100 most liberal (U.S.) colleges. Number thirteen is maybe the most well-known local liberal college: Oberlin College located in Oberlin, Ohio. In Wooster, Ohio, at number 43, sits the College of Wooster and close behind at 49 is Dension University in Granville, Ohio. Ranked number one on the list is Evergreen State College located in Olympia, Washington State.

You can catch me sporting an Oberlin hoodie ever since I visited back in the beginning of April. As objectively as I can muster, let me tell you a bit about the college from my own visit. Oberlin is, as stated before, located in beautiful Oberlin, Ohio. That's just a little southeast of Elyria. The college itself is small at just under 3,000 students and the campus reflects that. As small as it is, it's surrounded by a college-town, similar to Kent. Both the college and the town were founded together, ensuring they grew intertwined and connected. This includes an art gallery that is free and open to the public, and a fitness center that sees many town residents as well as college students. Oberlin's bookstore sits just on the edge of campus and is literally a Barnes and Nobles tailored to the college and its students, minus the starbucks.

Oberlin is unique because it is not only a college but a conservatory of music, in fact, many students are attendees of both! Walking through campus, you can hear music and singing from the building designated as the conservatory. One of the more liberal qualities of Oberlin would be the bathroom policies in dorms. The majority of the bathrooms use the "E" system. An "E" is velcroed to the door so it can easily be moved and turned. "E" means everyone can use the bathroom, every gender is welcome. A "3" means something similar to "Me, myself, and I." Only you may use the restroom if you change the "E" to a "3." An "M" means only those who identify as men may use it, and you guessed it, "W" means only those who identify as women may use the bathroom. My tour guide, Zack, said he's never heard of the system being abused, and the majority of students leave the "E" alone. Along with these restrooms, dorms also have all gender designated bathrooms that may not be changed. I noticed, however, bathrooms not located in dorms are designated: men and women, respectively.

Sitting at number two nationwide, and number one on Ohio's list of most conservative colleges is Franciscan University of Steubenville. Number one nationwide is Brigham Young University in Rexburg, Idaho. At number 12 in Ohio is University of Dayton, which I had the pleasure of visiting. Similar to Oberlin, Dayton has just under 3,000 students and a small, albeit beautiful campus. That's about where the similarities end, however. Compared to Oberlin, Dayton appears extremely conservative. The campus' main feature is the chapel which is evident on all of Dayton's advertising material. On my tour, I learned that in the library on campus are many Marianist and religious texts that are considered to be very old and important. At Dayton, the Rec Center is private unlike Oberlin's fitness center. Also unlike Oberlin, the University of Dayton is in an urban setting, sitting just at the edge of Dayton. According to their website, "The University of Dayton is a top-tier Catholic research university with offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels. We are a diverse community committed, in the Marianist tradition, to educating the whole person and to linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service."




*Kaitlyn Moses strikes a pose in her Oberlin gear.*

**The Liberal-Conservative Battle**

Which do you prefer? Senior, Jess Conklin, says she would prefer to go to a liberal school because of her beliefs. Her pick is the University of Akron which is 25 on the list of Ohio's most liberal colleges. Junior, Adele Conklin (no relation), agrees, saying, "My views are more liberal than conservative. Also, conservative schools often have a religious basis and I am not religious." She wishes to attend a school like New York University or George Washington University. Even Junior, Justin Politzer, who considers himself more conservative, says he would prefer to attend a liberal college as, he says, "Being more conservative, it will give me a greater challenge." He finds his choice important because, "A heightened atmosphere will produce greater challenge and more clashes of ideas." He would like to attend "Hillsdale College, then go on to an Ivy League or into the military." Adele gives the advice: "I believe you should attend a school with an environment that agrees with or leans toward your views. It might be hard to focus on your studies if you do not agree with the views of your school. Also, college should be about more than just studying, and it may prove hard to socialize those who attended the college because it is liberal or conservative if you disagree with their views."

To truly know which is best for you, the best step is to visit the college in question, take a tour, attend an information session, and talk to the students on campus. If you find one type of college is preferable over another, you know you're one step closer to narrowing that oh-so-important choice down to your perfect college. Both liberal and conservative colleges can be beautiful and prove to be great places to gain an education, but the views of the school and it's students are the furthest from the same. Do your research and keep an open mind when considering colleges.

# How to be an adult

by Alexis Caponi, BP Staff Writer



*Photo courtesy of shutterstock.com*

Everyone grows up, but not everyone goes to college. That's okay, but in this article I'll be giving some advice on how to "grow up" and be an "adult." Since I'm not an "adult," I've asked some other adults like parents, aunts, uncles, my brother, and his friends to supply me with some words of wisdom. Here are some of the responses I got:

-Keep in touch with your family.

-Don't just let your laundry keep piling up.

-Find a job, even if it's just something really small, it makes a difference.

-Don't ever be afraid to ask for help.

-Know how to study. Even if you didn't need it in high school, you will need it in college.

-Generic tastes just as good as name brand.

-Except spaghetti sauce.

-Don't take things you don't need in your dorm.

-You really don't need those sixth grade softball trophies.

I decided to text my brother's friend, Shawn, who is at OSU at the moment, and tried to get a serious answer out of him, but the best I got was:

"Cry. Use Netflix to fuel procrastination. Debt. Tacos. Pick a good major. That last one is literally all you need to tell them."

So when you go off to college just remember to not lose yourself. Don't only focus on partying, but don't drown yourself in academics either. Find a balance that works for you, and don't sweat all the little things. Odds are, most people are terrified of making the same mistakes you are, and won't even notice when you screw up.

Some helpful tips for going off to college:

-Go to all orientations.

-Get organized.

-Go to class. Seriously, skipping doesn't help.

-Pay attention to due dates.

-Put time aside for you to relax.

And by far the best piece of advice I've seen yet:

*Be prepared to feel completely unprepared.*

This is undoubtedly going to be a stressful time in your life, everything is changing. It makes perfect sense to feel overwhelmed, just be prepared for that as much as you can. Don't quit just because college becomes extremely stressful, the feeling will go away, you just have to be ready for when it comes!

# Students of the Month of Berkshire High School

by Jeremy Koscelnik & Tommy Blaha, BP Staff Writers

It's that time of the month again! Every month six students are selected to be the Student of the Month so obviously one student is selected from each grade to make that total of six. The six special people from this month were only selected because they stood out from the rest of the people in their grade, regardless of looks. So let's get started and see how these six special ones react when they are asked questions to see if they actually do stand out.



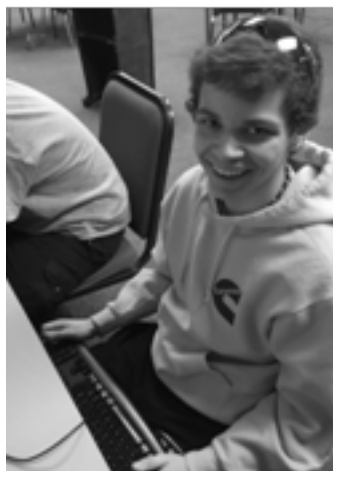
7th Grader: Lexi Byler
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Giraffe."
Why are you better than me?
"I'm studious and smart and pay attention in class."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"Yes."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"Yes."



Freshmen: Julia Kastor
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Elephant."
Why are you better than me?
"I'm a girl."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"Yes."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"I don't even know what that is."

No Image Available

8th Grader: Chase Rotz
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Flying Fox."
Why are you better than me?
"I'm wearing a coat and you are not."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"No."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"I don't know."



Senior: Jack Garner
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Lions"
Why are you better than me?
"I'm smarter than you."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"No."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"Awesome. NASCAR!!"



Junior: Gabby Skolaris
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Lion."
Why are you better than me?
"We're Girls."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"Yes."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"I personally like it."

Sophomore: Sadie Hopkins
What is your favorite African Animal?
"Elephant."
Why are you better than me?
"We're Girls."
Do you think eyebrow shapes matter?
"Yes."
What is your opinion of the Daytona 500?
"I don't know."




# Why do we procrastinate?

by Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Writer

Procrastination. The only sure-fire way to avoid success. I'd just like to start off by saying that yes, I did procrastinate writing this article; I also procrastinated writing my other article. My brother always says that he procrastinates because he "works better under pressure." I procrastinate because the thought of doing any sort of work suddenly shuts off my motivation.

I believe I speak for my entire English class that when Mrs. Koler told the class at the beginning of the year "that this isn't something you can put off until the night before it's due" we all took it as a personal challenge.

Jenna Landrus says that she procrastinates because she feels like she doesn't have time when she needs to do things, "I just think that I'll have more time later, and then I don't." This is reasonable; if you're really busy one day, it makes sense to put something off until you have the time to do it.

Maddie Timmons says she does it because she "likes to veg." She likes her free time and would prefer watching Netflix to doing anything productive. Who doesn't prefer relaxation to the stress of working?

Multiple people have given me the simple answer that everyone can relate to: "I'm just lazy." Your homework's all the way downstairs and you're already upstairs and it would just be too much to go get. 100% relatable.

There are three types, or reasons, of procrastinators. The first is the thrill-seeker who waits until last minute to get that rush of adrenaline. The second is someone who fears failure, or even success. These people would rather have others think they lack the effort than ability. The last type is the decisional procrastinator. These people can't and don't make decisions. Not making a decision absolves them from taking responsibility of an outcome.

There are literally zero positives of procrastinating, besides having free time, which eventually leads to stress and a larger build up of work. Procrastination is linked to stress and anxiety, which can cause a change in diet and even insomnia. It can also allow you to miss out on opportunities in life. For example, if you have the chance to buy tickets to an event you wanted to go to, but put off buying the tickets for a few days, you could lose your opportunity.

Now, I'm definitely not trying to convince you to stop your procrastination habits, because that's what procrastination is, essentially. It's a habit, and habits are hard to break. I'm an avid procrastinator, and that likely won't change throughout the rest of high school. You just simply have to know when to sit down and crank out that homework (cough, cough, Sophomore English dialectical journal entries, cough).

So, I guess the moral of the article is to enjoy your free time, and just continue to ignore your problems in life. Everyone else is doing it, just jump on the train.

# Appreciation for the janitors

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

There are those who roll into school at 7:40 in the morning, just before the bell rings, to make it to class, and go through the day as a student in the halls of Berkshire High School. There are also people who arrive early, set up a lesson plan, help students before their classes start, and are here to teach. However, there are also workers in our school that arrive before the crack of dawn, prior to any other people, and unlock the building, turn on the heat or air conditioning, and make sure students and teachers are safe and happy to spend our days in the school.

If one was to look at the janitor's job descriptions, it would probably say "everything" because is there anything they haven't had to do? When your locker is stuck, and you're going to be late to class, who do you call for help? A janitor. When there is something wrong with maintenance, or if you're just in a bind, the janitorial staff are your people to go to for help. And long after the day is over, they are still working. Did you know they mop and sweep the cafeteria floor of all that we've messily spilled or left behind every single day? As students, it may seem as if because the school is almost always clean and functional, that we don't need to worry about our actions inside of it, but we do. Berkshire High School is an old building, and the only way it looks the way it does right now is because our janitors care.

You may think it's not your responsibility to take care of the building, or even care at all, but there are people who work very hard to maintain it for you, and when you disrespect the building or the school, you in turn disrespect them. The janitorial staff, name, name, name, name, are wonderful people. The dedication to their job, and their patience with all of the students and staff, is a privilege to our entire community. So next time you pass by a janitor, smile, or say thank you, because they just might be the person to help you one day.

# Seniors' favorite high school memories

by Sydney Mighton, BP Staff Writer

Senior year is a year filled nostalgia and reminiscing. This is the last year you will spend with all of your childhood friends, and last year you will be with your classmates and the underclassmen that you're used seeing everyday in the hallways. Everyone will be going their separate ways, with starting up their own life and getting ready for their future. A major part of this year will be spent laughing with your friends, talking about the memories you have made throughout high school and the times you have spent together.

Graduating is a bitter-sweet feeling, there is really no other way to explain it. There is excitement for starting the next chapter of your life, whether that be going off to a college or university, or joining the workforce or military. All of that excitement is followed by sadness and nervousness. We have been so used to getting up at 6 A.M., going to school until 2:30 and having the same schedule for the first seventeen or eighteen years of our lives. High school is really all we know, how are we supposed to survive without our friends or family, or teachers that have become so dear to us? While coming to an extremely emotional end to this chapter, hearing what certain events have stood out and impacted our classmates whole high school experience is a wonderful way to smile and is pretty intriguing, actually.

"**P**laying in a rival game and pulling out a victory. There is nothing like it in the world." - **Shannon McGee**

"**G**oing to my first homecoming was my favorite high school memory. It was such a fun experience being a freshman and having a good time with everyone in my school." **-Conner Teare**

"**T**aking a nap on the school roof eighth period was a moment I will forever hold dear to me." **-Lessy Sell**

"**S**enior night was my favorite memory. My snare drum broke after the senior band dance, so I carried it while performing the remainder of the halftime show. I got a lot of applause from parents and the other band. So I'd say that is my favorite memory from high school."
**- Daniel J. Pavilonis**

"**B**eating Cuyahoga Heights in double overtime." -Gordy Cossick

"**T**he memorable thing that happened to me during high school was making it to playoffs in football for the first time since 1982." -Michael Risko

"**F**inishing Chemotherapy." **-Brittany Allen**

"**B**eing on homecoming court." **-Billy Maschek**

"**M**aking varsity cheerleading freshman year. That was a really proud and happy moment of mine." **-Macie Hilliard**

"**M**eeting new friends from the merge with Ledgemont. That is unforgettable to me." **-Carsten Nyerges**

"**J**im Vilario walked around with a crowd of other kids around him, holding half a coconut with God knows what in it and made people drink out of it. They would all approach you just chanting 'coconut' and wouldn't leave you alone until you took a sip." **-Florida Domanski**

"**W**hen Max Gillaland changed the 'S' to a 'C' on a sign that said 'Long White Socks' in marching band." **-Barrett Jackson**

"**W**hen my friend Jill fell on her back while trying to do a jump during cheerleading practice. That was epic." **-Bree Barker**

"**M**y favorite high school memory was when I played my first solo in concert band. That's a moment I'll never forget." **-Patricia Simsa**

"**S**neaking out of class to go play on the playground at Ledgemont last year. I would do that all the time." **-Jessica Conklin**

***High school is filled with countless memories, the slightest thing can spark a memory you may have made during those years. As this chapter comes to an end, another very exciting one opens. The memories my peers and I made here at Berkshire High School will never be forgotten.***

# Senior confessions & awkward moments

by Lexis Sell, BP Staff Writer

* Peeing in the parking lot while waiting for the football bus to arrive back from their away game.
* I spray tanned my friend while she was sleeping in the hotel on our DC trip.
*Going to the parking lot and drifting at night.
* I brought my dog to school all day in my purse and nobody caught me.
* Peeing all over the toilet paper and seats in the bathroom (nobody ever figuring out it was me).
* Turning off the teachers TV's everyday with my phone.
* Helping steal the Tony Hawk poster from the library window.
* Skipping my Kent classes to go get Chipotle.
* I helped break into the boy's locker room so I could get my friends phone after hours.
* I skipped class to go #2.
* Crawling through the ceiling to get from one end of the school to the other.
* Having fight offs in the bathroom during 7th period.
* Went onto the roof of the school and drew a large genital on the sky light looking into the big gym.
* During a power outage, sneaking into the small gym and climbing above the stage where we found a little crawl space and graffiti all over the walls. But to get up there we had to stack a bunch of wood to get into the 15 foot reach.
* Hopping the fence to get in free to the football games
* Stealing the yellow slips from teachers so I could write my own late passes junior and senior year.
* I was going #2 very loudly (plop plop, fizz fizz, oh what a relief it is), and when I got out my teacher was laughing at me.

* "Falling down the front stairs of the school and getting the whole thing on video."
* "Making the wheelchair alarm go off for twenty minutes because I fell down the stairs and onto the lift."
* "Getting my car hit in the school parking lot in front of all my peers."
* "Having a teacher walk into the bathroom while I was fixing my skirt; she saw my underwear that said "go wild cats", and then proceeded to say "go wild cats", while throwing up her fist."
* "When one of our teachers got her period during class and we had to tell her that mother nature had made an unexpected visit."
* "Falling down the stairs because I dropped a pencil and slipped on it; later to realize the boy I liked was behind me and mind you I was wearing a dress."
* "Falling asleep during class and in the moment of being disoriented from my dream, I called my teacher grandma."
* "When I skipped school because my teacher wasn't there, and then bumping into them that day while I was in mentor."
* "Seeing my history teacher in Victoria Secret, and then they saw me and we had to make friendly conversation while both trying not paying attention to what was in each other's hands.
* "Freshman year. The whole thing was awkward and embarrassing."
* " I ate the cafeteria lunch and put my retainer in a napkin and then threw it out. So, I had to go ask the janitor if i could go dumpster diving (I ended up finding it).
* " My teacher asked me to move a bookshelf and behind it we found a pair of lace underwear."

Senior Spread

# Seniors on the stage

by Breonna Barker, BP Staff Writer

With the end of the year fast approaching, seniors are facing a lot of "lasts." For the group of Seniors taking the stage for the last time come April 30th, the ending is bittersweet. The Seniors performing in Little Shop of Horrors include, Michelle Sohm, Kieran Wichert, Sam Anderson, Barrett Jackson, Alec Vizy, Alyssa Maier, and Breonna Barker.

**Michelle Sohm**

Her favorite role was Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors.
Her favorite show is Hello Dolly
She plans on going to Gannon to study pre-med. She hopes to stay in theater, but regardless will always see shows.
She sees theater as not just an extracurricular but is a way of expressing oneself and developing a sense of self in a manner like no other.
She has been a part of theater since birth
She can't pick one favorite memory because she values all of them

**Barrett Jackson**

His favorite role was Grendel in Beowulf
His favorite show is 10 Ways to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse
His plans for the future include to "get paid, get laid, Gatorade"
He has been in theater too long.
His plans for his future include avoiding theater
His favorite memory was when he got the resource officer called on his English class.

**Kieran Wichert**

Her favorite role was Mayzie in Seussical
Her favorite show is Pippin
She plans on staying involved in theater.
She is going to college. In a city
Theater to her is "10/10 would try again"
She's been involved in theater for four years
She finds her best memory to be all of them.

**Alyssa Maier**

Her favorite role was Zombie 2 in 10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse
Her favorite show is Mama Mia
She plans to try to be a part of theater in college, but if not see the shows
She plans on going to Virginia Tech for military college probably join army after that
Theater to her is something fun to do instead of sitting at home doing nothing, something to be a part of.
She has been a part of theater for three years
Her favorite memory was being applauded after singing Kung fu fighting.

**Sam Anderson**

His favorite role was Tom Bailey in Hickory Dickory Dead. "Who says Tom Bailey can't act?"
His favorite show is Seussical
He plans on going to college and to continue acting.
Theater to his is escapism
He has been a part of theater for 6 years
His favorite memory was the Kung fu fighting scene

**Alec Vizy**

His favorite role was Character 3 in No Frills Revue.
His favorite show is No Frills Revue on Broadway.
His plans for the future include having to think. Nothing with theater a couple things. *shrugs* stuff
Theater to his is a verb/noun depending on how you use it
His favorite memory was Question no. 1

**Bree Barker**

Her favorite role was Connie in Hickory Dickory Dead.
Her favorite show is Wicked.
Her plans for the future include going to college and possibly minoring in theater.
Theater to her is a way of life.
Her favorite memory was the batteries in the diamond compartment.



*Some of the thespian seniors and Director Mr. Lestor, all looking fly.*

# It's a wonderful life

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

Today is the one day of your life you have control over. Now is the second you can decide what outlook you choose to have on today. I have no doubt you've heard this before, in fact, you have probably heard everything in this article at least once, and it may have even been labeled cliche. However, what makes something cliche is its truth. So hear me out, and if you've heard it before, ponder this: "It is not understanding that destroys wonder, it is familiarity" (John Stuart Mill 1865). Life is full of wonder. The very essence of it, made up of atoms and cells, crafted into beings of life, animals and plants and everything that surrounds us is essentially a part of us. It makes us who we are, along with our hopes, our ideas, and our dreams.

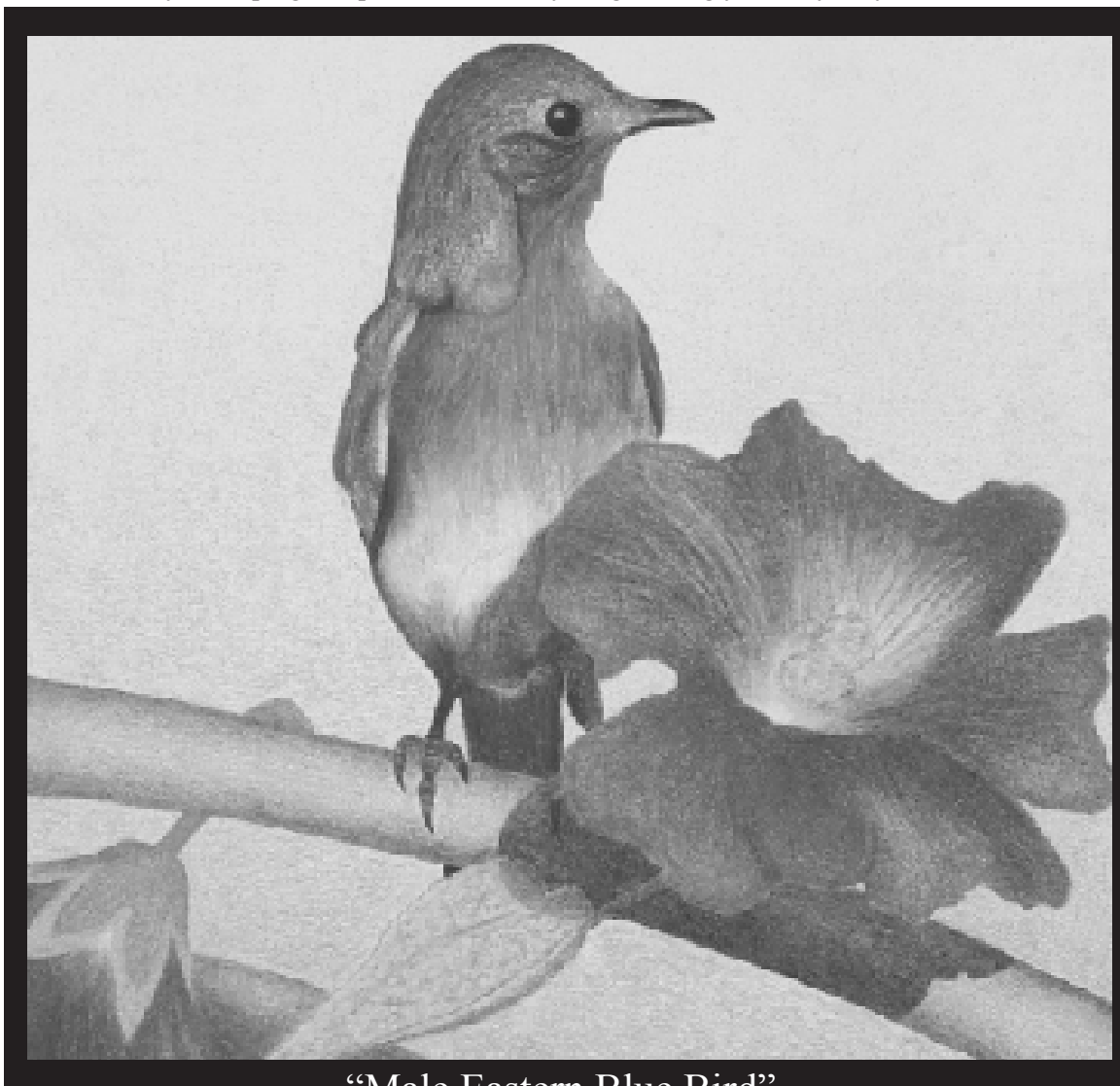
We have the power to impact numerous other people. Though a smile may be interpreted differently by each person you give one too, the odds are that the impact is positive. Be that person that brightens someone's day because of a simple smile, it can go a long way, spreading positivity in a far too familiar setting. Your mind is amazingly powerful, and positivity, as a product, is as well. Positivity is keeping an open mind to everything coming your way, staying in the moment, and accepting that when faced with challenges, you will trust in yourself or others abilities to persevere. Of course every day cannot be filled with absolute positivity, and that is understandable, it's about making the best out of the situation you're in, and most importantly, moving on. Accept that everyday won't be perfect, in fact, none will, and that's the beauty of it, you decide how you handle set-backs and overcome them. Imperfection is human, but that does not mean everything we do is flawed. Look at everything you've done in your life, that takes strength and perseverance and passion, all of which make life unique.

Appreciate what you have in life, both your privileges and your struggles. It can be monotonous, driving to school or work everyday, spending your mandated time there, and then going home. But think of it this way, you have the privilege of driving to school or work in the mornings, some of which you see the sunrise, upon getting to your destination your mind is challenged, and exposed, and expanded with all the new knowledge and experiences you will have. There is beauty in every day, whether it be in the people you see, or the world that surrounds you. Whether you find inner peace through meditation, religion, outside, or otherwise, your sense of peace is beautiful, and to contribute to the world of others, whether it be by an idea, a smile, or simply a new take on the world is truly wonderful.

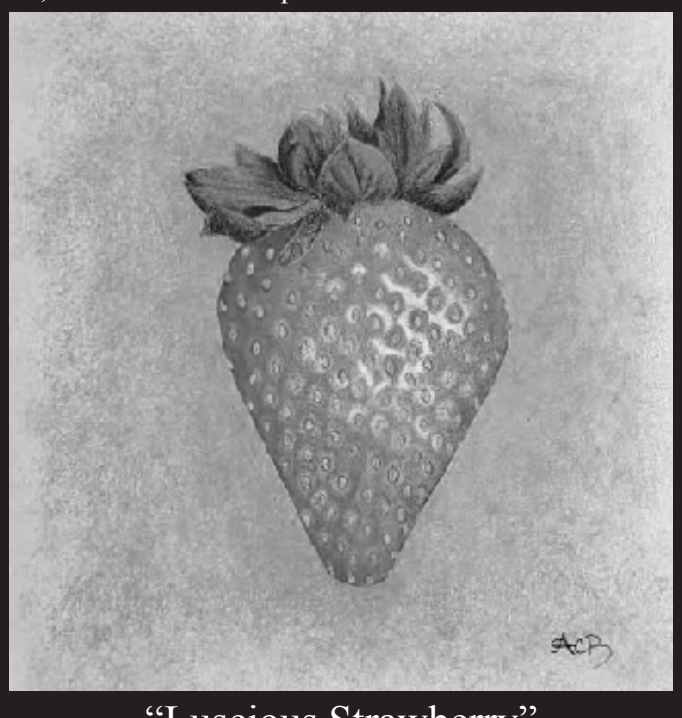
# Senior art feature: Amber Bowman

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Writer

Amber Bowman is one of Berkshire's finest artists. Because of her amazing art skills, she will be attending Columbus College of Art and Design in the fall. Here are some of her magnificent pieces, all done in colored pencil!



"Male Eastern Blue Bird"



"Luscious Strawberry"

# An open letter to Berkshire

by Abbie Mascheck, BP Staff Writer

Wow…. Here I am, penning my final goodbye, gearing up to begin my new adult life and leave you behind. My time here can be summed up in one word: interesting. Coming my junior year from a small private school, I anticipated meeting lots of different people, taking lots of fun classes and hearing lots of swear words. Each anticipation proved to be true. Berkshire, my time with you has been sweet. I have grown in ways that I was unaware I needed to. You allowed me to branch out and get involved with people who I wouldn't have before. There have been many enjoyable classes that will better prepare me for the future that's quickly coming my way. I met some of the sweetest people and changed my life for the better.

When I think of leaving, it's definitely a bittersweet feeling. I am so looking forward to being done with high school and starting my journey as an independent young woman. I look forward to the days when I will no longer be forced to ask anyone for their permission to use the restroom. Days where I will be able to sleep in and not be forced to wake up in the dark each morning are definitely days that I am looking forward to. Endless math problems where I secretly have no idea how to actually solve will finally be left in the dust, what a joyous day that will be! However, seeing my teachers each day, walking to my locker each morning waving to Mr. Reedy, participating in Care Team activities and events, writing each month for the school paper, as well as a day dedicated to wearing your pajamas all day long, will definitely be missed. Many claim that your high school experience will fly by before you can even catch your breath. I used to refuse to believe that was true. But sitting here, I can testify that even I wonder where time has gone. It seems like just yesterday I was the girl that wore countless dresses to school with her hair done in braids, scared to get on the bus and leave my mom for the first day of kindergarten. So Berkshire, as this year comes to a close, I would like to thank you. You have been a place where I was not only able to grow academically but also personally. As I venture into this new chapter of life, I look back on you as a source of good memories. My heart will always have a place of purple and gold sprinkled on it.

Sincerely,
Abbie Maschek

# Goodbye Nathan Schultz

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

O Captain! My Captain! Your fearful trip is done.

Nathan Schultz, my friend, my brother, my mentor, my Ralph. You were more than a person. You were an idea, you stood for something greater. You were the greatest cloud in the sky. You were the biggest billy goat gruff. You were the oldest wine in the cellar.

You ran sometimes, mostly in my heart. You weren't just a trackster, you were a Track Star! You cross my country everyday. You were Ralph. But Ralph is gone, he is no more, he left the moment you crossed that finish line.

I know it was a long journey child, but rest easy, for it is almost over. Today you sit at a desk, two seats behind and one to the left of me, but tomorrow holds bigger and better things. Tomorrow is almost here Nathan, and tomorrow is your day.

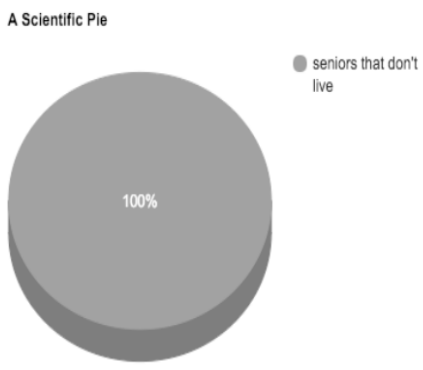


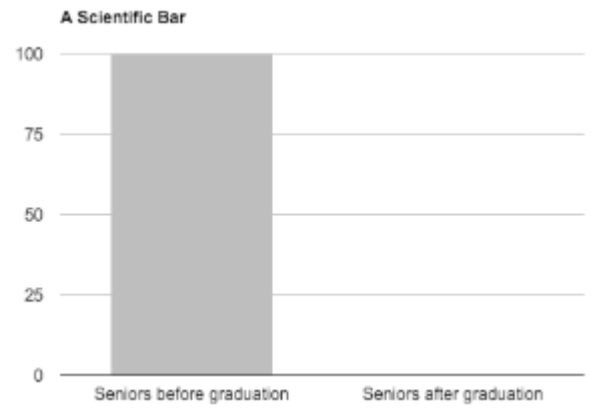
*Nathan Schultz, on to bigger and better things.*

# Do Seniors die?

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

After graduation, most Seniors go off to join the workforce, go to college, or join the armed forces… or so we're told. But what if after high school, there is nothing else, what if that is all there is to life? According to Senior, Shannon McGee, "Eventually we all die." But by that she probably means we die the second after we graduate. According to this graph that I just made, 100% of Seniors die after graduation. Furthermore, if I transfer this data into a bar graph we can again see that there are no Seniors left after graduation.




These graphs are irrefutable proof that the end is near, not only for the Seniors, but also for people that are going to be seniors soon. We should be afraid. So to answer the question that everyone is wondering, yes, Seniors do indeed die, and sooner than previously anticipated.



"Pink Bloom"



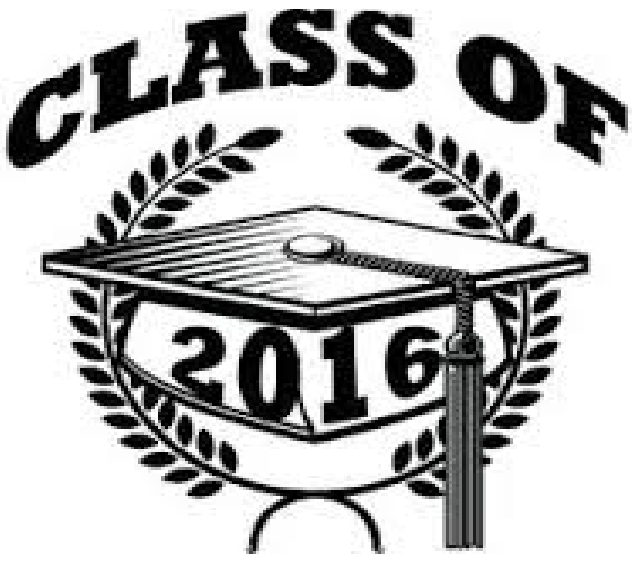
"Florida Sunset"

# Oh the places they'll go

## Senior Shadow project locations

Most seniors in the Class of 2016 will be done in the classroom after May 6 and heading out for a two-week job shadow experience in which they can experience the world of work and careers. Students found placement in all kinds of fields, from farming to anthropology to law enforcement. Take a look at where this year's seniors will be finishing out their last few weeks of high school and check out their presentations on Wednesday, May 25 at the Senior Awards Ceremony and Presentation Fair.

| | |
|---|---|
| Austin Adler | First Strike Indoor Range |
| Sabrina Andre | UH Geauga |
| Tim Bongivonni | The Arms Trucking |
| Amber Bowman | Deborah A Stern, LLC |
| Amber Brickell | UH Geauga |
| McKenna Brown | Chardon Municipal Court- Terri Stupica |
| Taeler Charvat | Sirna's Farm & Market |
| Jessica Conklin | Summit Academy School |
| Tyler Dennis | Sandridge Golf Course/J & M Kitchen & Bath |
| Kasey Dienes | R Humr Construction Co. |
| Florida Domanski | Square City Tattoo |
| Erin Drew | Euclid Police Department |
| Justin Duda | The Mayfield Sandridge Club |
| Andrew Fabian | Cramer Physical Therapy, LLC/Myofit Clinic |
| Sam Fisher | Snap Fitness |
| Jack Garner | Vinecourt Landscaping |
| Adam George | Russell Township Roads |
| Dylan Gomes | Philips Medical Systems |
| Alex Hanson | Steris Corporation |
| Stephanie Harden | MC Studios smARTS |
| Louis Hill | DiMarco & Associates |
| Kyle Hlad | City of Macedonia |
| Barrett Jackson | Hexpol Compounding Tech Development |
| Lucas Kuehn | Hastings Dairy |
| Logan Kumher | Nova Care Physical Therapy |
| Bradley Lockhart | Victoria Nagy & Associates, LPA |
| James Long | Chick's Automotive |
| Chance Loza | Geauga County Sheriff's Department |
| Sarah Luoma | Lake Health Concord |
| Alyssa Maier | Cleveland Police Department |
| Abbie Maschek | White House Chocolates |
| Billy Maschek | Gingerich Excavating |
| Shannon McGee | A1 Bed & Bisquit |
| Sydney Mighton | A1 Bed & Bisquit |
| Cassidy Mizner | Company 119 |
| Mia Monroe | Precision Orthopedics |
| Jessica Muller | UH Geauga- Radiology |
| Carsten Nyerges | Burton Police Department |
| CJ Parker | Great Lakes Dental |
| Dan Pavilonis | UH Geauga |
| Miranda Retych | UH Geauga-- Nursing |
| Rachel Rich | Auburn Career Center-Marketing/Enrollment |
| Nicole Rider | Dark Horse Veterinary Services |
| Jules Riffett | Michael's Racing Engines |
| Michael Risko | Shoreline Truck Services |
| Jesse Russell | Tim Doerr Construction |
| Alex Sanda | Cleveland Museum of Natural History |
| Nate Schultz | Cleveland Clinic |
| Lexi Sell | LuLu Tru |
| Patty Simsa | Cardinal Middle School |
| Allie Sipos | All Animal Solutions |
| Jacob Slivka | Precision Alarm |
| Jarett Smetana | The Cleveland Indians |
| Michelle Sohm | UH Geauga |
| Jared Squire | UH Geauga |
| Adam Stegh | Little Ireland Farm, LLC |
| PJ Strong | Auburn Career Center- IT Support |
| Kyle Sudnick | AJ Goulder Electric |
| Connor Teare | Preston Superstore |
| Madalyn Timmons | Aurora Veterinary Clinic |
| Maggie Topalian | VCA Burton Animal Hospital |
| Alec Vizy | Hexpol Compounding-- IT |
| Kieran Wichert | Lake Health Concord |
| Alex Yokules | Geauga Vision |
| Jarett Young | Pyramid Concrete |
| Robbie Zeigler | Slabaugh Farm |




# The Alternative Shadow Project

by Bree Barker, BP Staff Writer

For those of you who, come May 9th will be back at Berkshire until graduation, here's some information on what those next three weeks will entail.
You will be required to complete an alternate project made up of a portfolio, containing a resume, reflective writing, a career research paper, and a visual display to be used on Senior awards night.
Below is a list of what is to be included which may be worked on during Senior English classes or Sociology:

A cover sheet
Table of contents
College admission essay OR reflective essay
Research paper (5 pages)
Resume
Completed job application
Visual Display

For a complete breakdown of what is needed look on the Berkshire High School web page.

# Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon, May 2: | AP Chemistry Exam |
| Tues, May 3: | Choral Concert |
| Wed, May 4: | AP Literature & Composition Exam |
| Thurs, May 5: | AP Calculus Exam |
| Fri, May 6: | Prom Promise<br>Tractor Day<br>Last day for Seniors doing Shadow Project (all fees must be paid, materials turned in, passing all classes with good attendance and no discipline issues) |
| Sat, May 7: | Prom |
| Mon, May 9-Fri, May 20: | Senior Shadow Project (site visits throughout the weeks) |
| Mon, May 9: | AP Biology Exam |
| Wed, May 11: | AP Language & Composition Exam |
| Sat, May 14: | Relay for Life |
| Mon, May 16: | Band Concert |
| Tues, May 24-Thurs, May 26: | Exit Interviews for Senior Job Shadow Project/Alternative Project |
| Wed, May 25: | Auburn graduation<br>Senior Awards Night (7pm..attendance is mandatory for all Seniors as part of the Senior Shadow Project/Alternative Project) |
| Thurs, May 26: | Last day for seniors not participating in the Senior Shadow Project |
| Fri, May 27: | Last day for A-Tech Seniors |
| Mon, May 30: | Memorial Day |
| Tues, May 31: | Senior Picnic 11:30-2:30pm (free to all seniors- food, raffle, games, inflatables, etc. More info for sign up to follow) |
| Wed, June 1: | Graduation Rehearsal (9am- Mandatory attendance for all seniors who are participating in graduation)<br>Graduation!!!! (Report to cafeteria at 6pm-ceremony starts promptly at 7pm) |





*Photo Courtesy of sfz.com*

***Animals grazing in the San Francisco zoo.***

# Human Empathy: Zoos

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Writer

Empathy: "To sense other people's emotions, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling" (berkley.edu). Have you ever gone to the zoo and seen a bald eagle in a tiny cage? Bald eagles "prefer lakes and reservoirs with lots of fish and surrounding forests" (nationalwildlife-federation.org). At the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, their bald eagle lives in a small opening in the wolf exhibit, located in Wolf Wilderness.

Over spring break, I visited the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo with my little sis. When I was her age, I absolutely loved going to the zoo. However, many things have changed since then. I only feel sadness and guilt, after all humans possess the ability to empathize with other forms of life. Remember that one time you were with your best friend and you had that "silent conversation" in your head? That's empathy for you. Now take that and multiply it by ten. That's how most people feel about going to the zoo. Take Mr. Higgs for example: "I feel super sad, I'm depressed every time I go to the zoo. I don't feel right about keeping animals outside of their natural habitat."

> "Isn't it funny how an American Bald Eagle, our symbol of freedom, is locked away in a cage?"
> -Junior, Kylee Minick

However, some animals are kept in captivity solely for the purpose of rehabilitation. When asked, Mr. Higgs revealed, "I support rehabilitation 100%, but as soon as that animal is able to defend themselves, I would prefer it to be released." And many animal rights activists agree with him. Myself included. That day I went to the zoo, it seemed as if every gift shop and food vendor was under construction. I was only there for two hours, yet the noise was giving me a headache. Imagine living there 24/7!

Walking past the giraffe exhibit was the worst experience I have ever had visiting the zoo. Hoards of people were pushing past each other just for a chance to feed the giraffe one lettuce leaf! After a while, everyone got bored and left. I went to the edge of the walkway and looked over the railing, where I saw at least five pounds of lettuce leaves on the ground, rotting. I could not believe what I was seeing, how could I have never noticed this before?

Next was the Sun Bear exhibit. This exhibit belonged to a polar bear who had passed away. Prior to my visit, Mrs. Koler had taught my English class about signs of agitation in animals: "When animals demonstrate repetitive behavior, it's a sign of stress and anxiety. An example is when animal keeps returning to the same spot, touching something, or rubbing against something. Many zoo animals exhibit this behavior." Since many of these animals are left alone without attention, they develop anxiety and agitation. This lone Sun Bear walked to the feeding door, turned around and walked to the wall behind him. Then, he stood up on his hind legs, pushed off the wall and walked away. He repeated this series of movements for the entire time I was at the exhibit. I couldn't take it anymore and left.

I have to say that my visit to the zoo was a terrible experience. Of course, my little sister was enjoying herself, but I couldn't get past the guilt I felt for these animals. There is an upside to this, however. They are remodeling the tiger exhibit, which will be way bigger than the old exhibit. Let's hope the remodeling takes place for the other animals as well.

# Have we found King Tut's *mummy?*

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

For about 3,500 years, no one has seen what lies beyond King Tut's Tomb. In 1922, a British archeologist by the name of Howard Carter discovered the final resting place of the infamous young king Tutankhamun, the youngest pharaoh to rule in ancient Egypt in 1324 B.C. After stumbling upon the opening of Tut's tomb, Carter discovered nearly 5,000 artifacts that remained in pristine condition despite the couple thousand years they were buried in the earth. In fact, this is the most intact royal tomb to be found in the Valley of the Kings, which is located near the city of Luxor, once named Thebes.

In July of 2015, Nicholas Reeves, a British archeologist, published a paper claiming hidden tombs lay behind King Tut. His theory, based on scans conducted early November, 2014, which suggested that traces of hidden doors and passageways had been plastered and painted over, was initially dismissed by numerous well-known Egyptologists. However, Reeves states: "I've not found anything that makes me doubt my initial conclusion. I guess we're getting closer to the resolution now." He is completely correct, because on March 24, 2016, numerous scans were conducted by order of Mamdouh Eldamaty, the Egyptian antiquities minister. They detected metal and organic materials, which lead many Egyptologists and archeologists to believe it is perhaps an embalming room, where the dead would be preserved for their journey to the Afterlife. Reeves has posed a different and more exciting theory; he believes these open spaces hold Queen Nefertiti, whose body has not yet been discovered. Nefertiti, the beautiful and legendary wife to the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaten, is rumored to have ruled Egypt under the alias Neferneferuaten for a brief period of time before her step-son, Tutankhamen reigned. If she did in fact rule, she would have had to under the name of a man, which is why speculation of Neferneferuaten began. Soon, Tut took over the throne at a young age of only nine years old, and died unexpectedly at the age of 19. Due to his mysterious and quick death, Reeves believes that there was no tomb prepared for Tut when he passed, so they simply walled off Nefertiti and stuck Tut into her original tomb.

The speculation of Nefertiti and the possibility of hidden rooms and lost treasures has people from all walks of life buzzing about the discovery. Sadly, no more conclusions can be drawn until the end of the month, when the next set of radar tests are scheduled to take place. Until then, many Egyptologists and enthusiasts wait in anticipation, enchanted by the possibility of the legendary Nefertiti finally being uncovered.



*Photo Courtesy of medium.com*

***The first discovery of King Tut.***

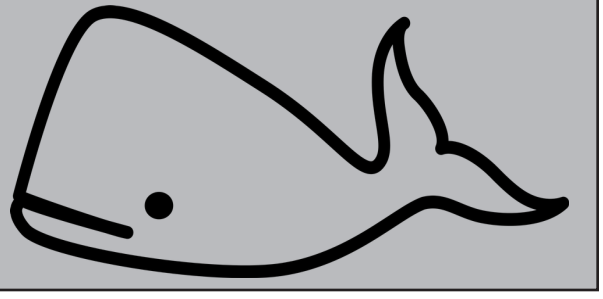
# The battle against Seaworld rages on

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer

There has been controversy for years surrounding whether or not the popular tourist attraction, Seaworld, should hold it's large marine mammals in captivity, or even exist for that matter. Unless you've been living under a rock, you would know that Seaworld is a mega-million dollar empire, where tourists pay to see killer whales and other flippered mammals perform a fantastic water show with their trainers. However, serious concerns about the safety and treatment of both the workers, and especially the famous killer whales, have been in the air since Seaworld was just a small marina in San Diego in 1964.

The famous documentary, 'Blackfish' gives a graphic view behind the scenes and history of Seaworld. The life of Tilikum, one of the oldest performing orcas from Seaworld is documented in this film. In his time as a performance whale, Tilikum was responsible for the deaths of three trainers at Seaworld, creating heated protests and outrage across the country. 'Blackfish' also gives a behind-the-scenes look at the poor treatment and living conditions of the animals kept in captivity at Seaworld.

Many of the whales who perform at Seaworld were captured from the wild, but Seaworld has also used its celebrities to breed further generations of dancing orcas. However, due to the widespread opposition of Seaworld's practices, they have made a public statement saying that they will no longer be breeding whales. This means that the current generation of orcas at Seaworld will be the last to be ripped from their homes in the name of entertainment. This is a win for animal rights activists everywhere, however, the issue of other performing animals at Seaworld remains. The fight to end animal captivity is still going strong, but this victory over Seaworld is a huge step in the right direction.



Features

# Our staff seniors:Guess who!

Can you guess which Senior Staff Writers these are?

by McKenna Brown, BP Staff Writer

a.)



b.)



c.)



d.)



e.)



f.)



Answer key: a.) Alex Yokules, b.) Abbie Maschek, c.) Lexi Sell, d.) McKenna Brown, e.) Mia Monroe, f.) Bree Barker

# Dear Mr. Reedy,

by Abbie Maschek, BP Staff Writer

As I wrap up my Senior year of highschool, I understand that when graduation finally comes, I'll be leaving some great people and memories behind. When it's finally time for me to walk across the stage at graduation and finally get my much awaited diploma, I'll also be stepping away from the staff members, other students, and clever Berkshire traditions. Even though my time at Berkshire has been brief you have demonstrated how a true principal, as well as a person, behaves.

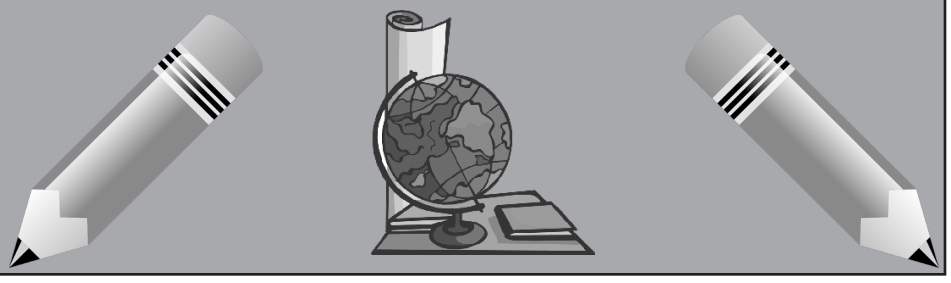
Throughout my time here, I never once doubted my safety. I always felt a sense of peace knowing that you were the one in charge. Thank you for showing up to school each day. You provided a sense of stability for not only my fellow peers but also for the school as a whole. You faithfully stood by your commitment as principal. I'm sure all of the students, as well as the staff, can testify that you were always there when anyone needed anything. We've all seen movies where the principal of the school is a complete nightmare; you have completely proven this stereotype false. Personally, I could always count on you for genuine conversation. Whenever we spoke, I knew that you were actually interested in what I had to say and that you actually cared. People that talk with others the way you do are rare. Thanks for always taking time out of your day to care about the lives of your student.

Walking into school every morning, it was almost a guarantee that you would come to school dressed professionally. It was clear that you care about your job and how you present yourself. I now understand how to dress to gain respect and show others that I care about what I'm doing. When you came to school every morning, you didn't sit behind your desk and bark orders. You demonstrated a positive work ethic to all of the students and staff members . Thanks for showing us that even the boss can show up and be productive and helpful. Lastly, I want to thank you for making your job personal. The fact that it was evident that you actually cared about the well being of each student easily makes you one of the best principals of all time. It was clear how thoughtful you are and have been throughout the years. Thanks for being you, Mr. Reedy. You have impacted so many lives. It's a shame every principal can't be like you.

Sincerely,
Abbie Maschek




Our fearless leader, Mr. Reedy.



Editorials

# A GSA: The risks vs the reward

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer

A GSA- most college campuses have them, but very few high schools across the country have even considered implementing one. For those who don't know, GSA is an acronym for Gay-Straight Alliance. These can also take the form of LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender etc.) support groups/clubs. The goal of many of these organizations is to create a safer environment for members of the LGBT umbrella and even supporters of it. High schools can be a harsh place for LGBT teens, and a GSA can provide the support they need to continue onto graduation safely and with a loving group of friends. According to recent surveys, LGBT teens are four times more likely to commit suicide, and those questioning their sexuality are three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers.

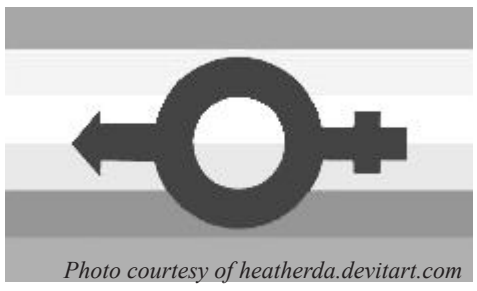


*Photo courtesy of heatherda.devitart.com*

Certain risks of implementing a GSA in high schools can be cited. Occasionally, a GSA can stir the pot, and create more problems for the members of the club. They can be singled out by students and become the targets of homophobic slurs, physical attacks and overall bullying. Also, those who don't understand that a GSA is not only for LGBT people, but also heterosexual, cisgender peers who support them can cause issues. Often for high school students, those who don't "fit in", or conform, are attacked and terrorized for not following the pack. In this case, if heterosexual students join a GSA, they may be ostracized by their non-like-minded friends for doing so. A GSA in certain cases, can be simply asking for trouble.

Among the small pool of risks however, a GSA can be one of the most positive additions to a high school. GSA's provide support for those LGBT teens who do not have many friends due to their anxiety associated with their sexuality. When both heterosexual and LGBT teens come together, they may find they have more in common than they once thought, and see the support that they can give to each other. There are several groups of students who would seek out LGBT teens to bully, simply because of homophobia or sexual confusion within themselves, and a GSA can provide a safe network of students willing to protect each other. Also, another important function of GSA's can be individualized sex education. In many states, if sex ed is taught at all, LGBT teens are often left confused and still questioning how they fit into it all. GSA's can provide this specialized sex education so that LGBT teens know how to play it safe as well. Knowledge is power, and with that knowledge, we can keep our LGBT youth safe.

In conclusion, a GSA or LGBT support group can provide a much-needed circle of friends for those teens who feel ostracized because of a part of themselves they can't change. LGBT teens are often looked down upon by their peers for being different and not following the crowd, and a GSA can give them a niche that they feel comfortable in. High school is meant to be a place for education so that our students can graduate and become successful adults. The suicide rates are outrageous enough, and the added social anxiety from bullying can last into adulthood. If a GSA was to be implemented at our school, would it be a positive place that LGBT youth could find refuge, or a target of further bullying and harassment? Either way, it is important to remember that we're all human beings, we all have quite a bit of stress to deal with as students, and we have to support each other no matter of our differences.

# Books we should burn

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

I think it's safe to assume that we've all read books we haven't liked. Be it on our own time, or perhaps for a school class, there has been at least one book that we believe deserves to be thrown in a fire, metaphorically speaking of course. I gathered the opinions of people from many different grade levels to see what we should put in the burn pile. Seventh-grader, Maddie Kotowski, says that a prime candidate for this is Al Capone Does My Shirts, by Gennifer Choldenko. Her reason for hating the book is that "It's terrible." Fair enough, I suppose. I would imagine that this will start something of a trend of burning books read in English class. Kyle Kuchta, another seventh-grader, states that any book about Donald Trump should be burned "because Donald Trump." I didn't choose to pursue his reasoning any further, as I would hate to get too involved in controversial politics.

Eighth-grader Grace Clarke states that math books should be burned, citing that she "hate[s]" them, and that they're "stupid" and "gross." Dani Leonetti, a freshman, also states that books that deal with math, more specifically Geometry, should be burned. She further stated, "I hate Geometry, it makes me angry," before continuing to say that Algebra books should be burned because she "hate[s] them all." From the many Sophomores I asked, including people such as Amy Pfiester, Logan Byler, Kayla White, and Casey Sinkenbring, the following books are prime candidates for becoming kindling for the fire: Animal Farm, Life of Pi, Lord of the Flies, The Giver, The Cat in the Hat, The Pearl, and Of Mice and Men. All of the books, except for The Cat in the Hat for some reason, were read during English classes over the course of a few years. It would seem that having to do assignments just ruins books for some people, especially having to look so deeply into books and the meanings behind them in order to write an essay.

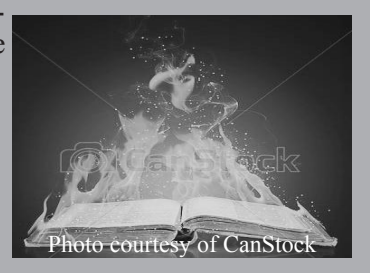


Photo courtesy of CanStock

Junior Dani O'Conke reported that the she believes The Scarlet Letter should be burned because "it was boring," and that Call it Courage can join it due to the book being "the worst" and having "no good content." A Senior, who shall go unnamed for no reason in particular, states that most novels aimed at teens should be destroyed. "They're abominations of the things we call books," he elaborated. Perhaps we're going about this all wrong, though. Ms. Ritts, a science teacher here at Berkshire, had this to say: "I don't think we should burn any books, they're going to be a rarity. So we can save what's left. Don't like them, don't read them." Maybe she's right. Perhaps we should avoid burning books at all costs. However, it seems that that line of thought is in the minority. Personally, I believe that The Secret Life of Bees, So B. It, and Seekers: The Quest Begins all deserve to be thrown into a fire, as they are all trash, in my, obviously, quite professional opinion. So, what lesson have we learned today? If you don't like something, just set it on fire! That is the only way to deal with things you dislike! (Please don't go burning things, it was a joke.).

# Ignorance isn't sexy

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

**There was this bar and in the bar there was a magic mirror. If you told a lie it would suck you in. One day a brunette walked into this bar. She walked up to the mirror and said, "I think I'm the most beautiful woman in the world," and it sucked her in. The next day a redhead walked into the bar. She walked up to the mirror and said "I think I'm the most beautiful woman in the world," and it sucked her in. Then the next day a blonde walked into the bar. She walked up to the mirror and said "I think…" and it sucked her in. (Coolblondejokes.com)**

Yes, we all understand, the blonde was sucked in because she lied about thinking… But is it really that funny? I admit, I chuckled at first read, but after a couple seconds, what the joke is actually saying, started to sink in. It's really offensive to blondes everywhere, instantly being labeled as dumb just because of our hair color. I don't know if you guys recognize it, but that is some hard-core stereotyping, and makes a lot of people feel inadequate just because of the amount of light reflected by the melanin in the dead cells that are connected to our skull.

It doesn't help that in practically all high school based movies and books ever created, the tall, blonde girl is always the dumb, mean one who only cares about becoming prom queen and who everyone secretly hates. Guys, this isn't how it is in real life! Being tall and blonde myself, I can testify that it really makes you hate who you are and how you look because someone else tells you that because of your height and hair color, this is how you're going to be, and there seems to be no escaping that. They shove you in a box, and expect you to become some bimbo model just because you're taller than 5'5". For the longest time I was terrified of becoming some air-head mean girl just because of my height and hair, so I always wanted to change it! I wanted to dye my hair so I wasn't blonde anymore, and I spent hours online looking up how to appear shorter, afraid my height made me stand out too much. Other girls would always say, "you're so lucky to be tall, I wish I was taller!" But I definitely didn't share those feelings whatsoever. I didn't realize that it really doesn't matter how tall you are, or what your hair color is. You are who you strive to become. No, I can't permanently change my appearance physically, but I can definitely control the type of person I am. I am not dumb, sure I make stupid mistakes here and there, but so does everyone, including all the short brunettes. My best friend is a short brunette, trust me, I know. It's okay to make mistakes that are really embarrassing, everyone does, but you shouldn't dumb yourself down just because you think it's "attractive," or will make all the guys fall all over you like it seems to in the movies. As Miss K once wisely said, "Smart is the new sexy," and she couldn't be more right. Don't pretend to not know the answer in class just because you're afraid people might see you as a "try-hard," or an "overachiever,"if you know the answer, say it! It's not embarrassing, and if anyone tells you you need to get a life, ignore them. Just wait and see how far they end up in the next twenty years.

For some reason, girls seem to think that acting dumb is hot, or maybe they do it just to get attention. I don't really know, but before you say, "OMG, I'm such a blonde, lol," think about how you really sound to the people around you, and if that's even who you are, or is it just who you think you need to be to get people to laugh at you? Maybe you're searching for acceptance? I'm not sure, but whatever it is, throw it away and live up to your full potential, be who you want to be, not who you think others want you to be.

# Casefile: How to spot a lizardman

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

You've heard the tales, no doubt, of one of the biggest threats our society currently faces. With each passing year, the amount of lizard people infiltrating our government, businesses, and homes is increasing at an alarming rate. Everywhere you go, you run the risk of encountering a lizard. The problem is, lizards can easily blend in with our normal human society. Their skin allows them to change shape so that it's near impossible to tell them apart from normal humans. However, there have been stories of people discovering these dangerous beings in different places all over the world. Right now, I am going to focus on the stories of local citizens and their encounters with lizards. Cory Kaschalk, a freshman here at Berkshire, once ran into a lizard and got away alive. According to Kaschalk, he spotted a lizard while on vacation at Universal Studios in Florida. He claims that it occurred when he was about to get off of a ride. A lizard that had been posing as an employee had removed his human face from his disguise, leaving himself exposed long enough for the now somewhat emotionally scarred freshman to see the truth. Kaschalk continued on to tell me that he barely got away from the incident alive. When questioned about how to spot a lizard, Kaschalk stated that an easy way to tell is the masks they wear to conceal their identities. Green scales, tails, and regenerative powers are also common ways to tell a lizard from a normal person, so he stated. He would like to advise all normal people to avoid contact with lizards at all costs. If you are confronted by one, he suggests that you run away as fast as you can. If you must fight, then he recommends that you sweep their legs and try to run. Hiding may not be optional, as lizards have notoriously sharp noses and will be able to find you from long distances away, though there is no specific evidence on exactly how far they are able to pick up smells.

There is no need to panic completely about the lizardman threat. Luckily, there is a group of people dedicated to the hunting of lizardmen, the Lizard Detection Agency, or LDA for short. I was fortunate enough to be able to speak with a couple of members from this brave resistance movement. The team of Ben Anderson and Max McClintock, Sophomores here in our very school, are active members in the lizard hunting group. When speaking with them, Mr. Anderson reported that he has "Seen multiple lizards, some in school, and others in charge of the government." Mr. McClintock chimed in, "Of course, they're all around us! Everywhere!" It is certainly a frightening thought that lizards in human clothing may be among our fellow peers, but it seems to be an inescapable reality. When asked how they spot lizards amongst normal people, they reported that clear signs of lizardism(?) are rough and discolored skin, scales, wearing shorts in the winter, no hair on the body, avoiding water, and strange-looking eyes. That's quite the list that they have. I know for a fact that I've seen some people wearing shorts in the winter, but never once did it cross my mind that they were lizards! As they are professionals when it comes to dealing with these scaly fiends, I asked them how to handle a lizard-based threat. They reported that average citizens should take extreme caution and attempt to get backup. Running to a nearby water source is also recommended, as according to the lizard hunters themselves, lizards hate water. Once you are in a safe spot, Mr. McClintock recommends following these instructions: "Well first call us up, the LDA, Lizard Detection Agency, then depending on the situation we will tell you what to do. In any event where you can't contact us, find water, drench yourself, and try and throw it at the lizard." He warns, however, that there is some misinformation on how to get rid of a lizard. "A common mistake," he says, "is flashing bright lights. Those don't affect them like people say." However, if you are forced to confront a lizard and running doesn't seem to be an option, Mr. Anderson recommends that you "hit hard, hit fast, and don't get hit". It would seem best to leave the fighting to the professionals. I pity any who get cornered by a lizardman. As closing words, Mr. Anderson stated that despite being able to say that there are indeed lizards in our school, he cannot disclose the names of any of them. He claims that that information is confidential, and saying their names publicly "might alert them." The job of an LDA professional is incredibly dangerous, and I would like to thank these heroes for protecting our school from the lizard menace.



*Photo courtesy of urdupoetrysms8.blogspot.com*

***Watch out for the evil lizardmen!***

However, despite all of this evidence towards the existence of lizardmen, there are still some naysayers who refuse to believe. One such person is Dylan Gomes, a Senior, who had this to say when asked if he thinks there are lizards among us: "it's absolutely ridiculous, no." I was somewhat shocked to hear this. How could someone just ignore all of the facts and evidence pointing towards a hostile reptilian takeover? Would it be obtuse of me to make a quick accusation? Of the few people I interviewed, he was the only one to object to their existence in such a direct way. Another person had reacted to the question by saying, "what kind of question is that?" but sounded innocently confused. So maybe, just perhaps, is Dylan a lizard? It's definitely within the realm of possibility, but the professionals said that anybody could be a lizard. What if Dylan isn't a lizard? What if he was only trying to keep me safe from the truth? If anybody could be a lizard, does that mean that even I could be one? No, that's absurd! If I was a lizard, no doubt the hunters would have gotten me during the interview! I think I need to take some time to think, but I will leave you all with one last piece of advice from Mr. Anderson of the LDA, "be careful who you trust, as they might just be a lizard."

# What's in the hat?

by Tommy Blaha, BP Staff Writer

What's in the hat? This is a question that's been asked through the ages and the only people that know the truth behind it are the magicians across the universe. Only magicians know the truth behind this question because they have gone through rigorous training to have just the knowledge of how the power works within hats. Very few can harness this dangerous power. For years magicians have tried to trick people by pulling rabbits and birds out their hats. They have also gotten away with stealing items by hiding them in a hat and saying they are in a hidden compartment. These are all lies. Now it is time to uncover the truth behind the question. I have gone through the vicious and long training to learn the secrets of the Hat, and I am ready to share it with the world.

The truth behind the question "What's in the hat?" is out of this world, literally. Inside every hat used by a magician is a secret panel that does open, but not to a small compartment, instead it is an opening into a completely new universe. Having this power is at first overwhelming and before you gain access to it, you are forced to take a test to see if you will use the hat for just entertainment instead of for good or evil. If you use the hat for more than entertainment, the Tribe of the Black Hats and Capes will hunt you down and you will be locked away in a special jail for the rest of your life for abusing the power. In fact, very few have ever abused this power because along with spending your life in prison, you also have to work children's birthday parties. Children's birthday parties are the worst place for a magician to work. Then, if you are very lucky, the Tribe of the Black Hats and Capes will allow you to use the portal to the other universe and you may wander around for only two hours. I was lucky enough to gain access to the portal and was permitted to share my journey with the people of this universe.

My trip to this other universe showed me how magical the world of magic can really be. It was a beautiful grassland filled with everything a magician would ever need and it makes you so happy just to look at it. Sadly though, the Tribe of the Black Hats and Capes have started to block off parts and organize this wonderful land so it will be easier for the magicians to use the power of the hat. It is rather easy to reach into this world to grab a rabbit and pull out a snake by mistake and the Tribe was has grown tired of their magicians making these mistakes. In the end, humans are slowly going to ruin this world more and more as magic becomes more popular. Our world can finally know the answer to the question "What's in the hat?" Remember not to abuse this new power: Magic

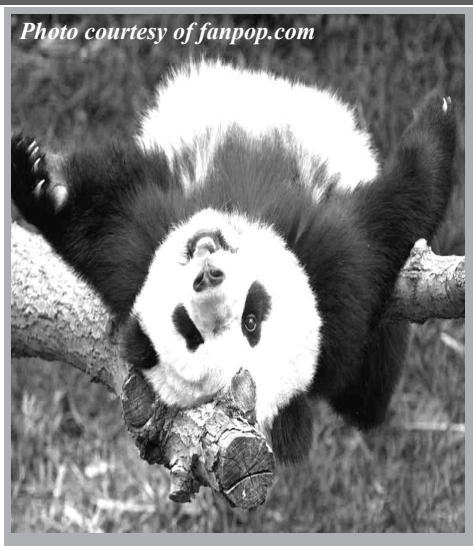


*Photo courtesy of fanpop.com*

***Look at this little guy! Who wouldn't want to be a panda nanny?!***

# That's a job?!

by Sydney Mighton, BP Staff Writer

Admit it, we all dream of having a job that we look forward to and is simply awesome. However, many of us do not realize that the job we have always dreamed of having might actually exist. These jobs you are about to read may seem too good to be true. However, these jobs are not in high demand so do not get your hopes up too high.

For you couch potatoes, your dream job is not far away; you can be a Professional Lounger. In this job, you get paid to test the comfortableness of over 200 pieces of furniture a day. However, if you had this job, what would you do when you get home from work? You would think after a day of lounging on what seems to be an endless supply of couches and chairs, you would want to be on your feet moving around. That will be unknown unless you are lucky enough to obtain this job.

Along with the subject of being a couch potato, comes a job in which you actually sleep. Yes, that is what I said: a job where you get paid to sleep. This job helps scientists and doctors find out mysteries behind sleep disorders and dreams. If you are okay with people examining your brain while you sleep, this job is perfect for you.

For you exotic animal lovers, a job such as a Panda Nanny must sound simply awesome. The main duties of this job include keeping the pandas company, playing with them and making them feel happy if they appear to be sad. Doing all of this will get you a solid $30,000 a year. Come on, how fun and rewarding does that sound?

This next job will blow your mind when you read about it. However, there is only one known person with this job, but we can all admit, we want to be that guy. A water slide tester as a job sounds too good to be true, however it is in some ways because it is not year round. In addition to a salary of £20,000, or about $30,904, all overseas travel expenses are covered.

As we are all going through the time in our lives in which we are trying figure out what we will be doing for the rest of our lives, we cannot lie that each of these jobs sound like they would be amazing to have. Little did we all know that our actual dream job that we may not have thought existed, actually does.