# The Badger Pause

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# Ask A...

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

**Q: Why didn't we have a snow day today?**
A: You didn't wish hard enough, slacker.
**Q: Will we ever have a snow day?**
A: If we didn't already have one by the time this article is published, then we may just have to abandon hope. If we did though, I guess your question answered itself.
**Q: Am I ever going to get off the bus?**
A: Probably not, for life is just a series of buses.
**Q: What's my favorite color?**
A: Coral Blue #2?
**Q: What do lizardmen eat?**
A: They eat normal food so that they're not discovered. You never know who's a lizard.
**Q: Anything exciting coming next semester?**
A: Well, the year is half over, so that's something.
**Q: Why does school start so early?**
A: For no good reason, that's for sure.
**Q: Does God exist?**
A: I'll leave that up to you I suppose.
**Q: Is a hotdog a sandwich?**
A: NOOO

# Making it work: Long distance relationships

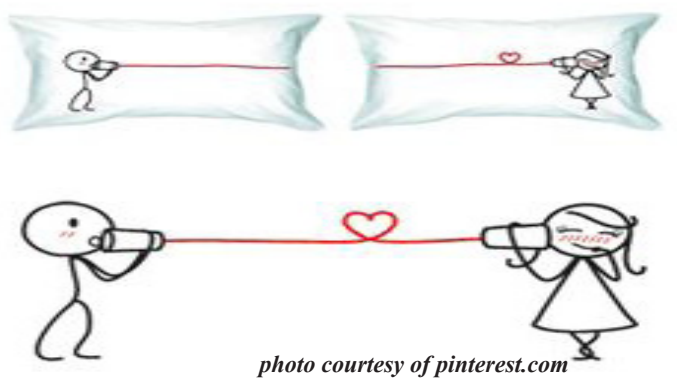


*photo courtesy of pinterest.com*

by Alex Sanda, BP Staff Editor

They'll never work out. There's no use in trying. They aren't real. How can you have feelings for someone you've never met? You'll meet someone else. They're doomed from the start. It isn't real love. These are just a few of the many negative outlooks on LDRs, or long distance relationships. Before I go on, let me point out that this will be a biased article for a variety of reasons: 1. It's an editorial. 2. I'm a hopeless romantic. 3. I'm in a long distance relationship myself. 4. I refuse to share the same opinions as my fellow senior, Jared Squire. You've been warned.

A long distance relationship is a romantic relationship between two people who live far apart. I'll start off by pointing out the obvious cons: lack of communication, vast distance, no face-to-face time, et cetera. Now let's examine it the way an optimist would...and I don't mean how the Master of Relationships himself, Jared Eustace Igor Epsilon Squire, did when he claimed that "long distances are good because you can have fun with them and then they leave." Think of the proverb, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." With this perspective, that unconquerable distance now seems like a factor that assists the relationship, even cultivating an intensified feeling love, trust, and intimacy. In fact, according to the USA Today website, studies by the City University of Hong Kong and Cornell University have suggested just that. Taking into account the huge technological developments that have been made and continue to be made, expanding everyday communication, this should come as no surprise. That being the case, LDRs should not be regarded as 'fake' relationships. Yet again proving his prowess when it comes to love, Squire claims that "long distance relationships aren't relationships because relationships are real. There's a reason they're called REALationships." Here's something to think about: a considerable amount of my good friends have just recently gotten out of serious, long-term relationships. Ironically, (at least according to cynics like Squire), my relationship is still going strong. It goes to show that with effort, creativity, strength, determination, hope, and love, anything is possible.

What does it all boil down to? Love. That answer is simply oozing with cheddar, gorgonzola, mozzarella, and cabernet because it is CHEESY! But come on, it wouldn't be what it is without some sappy, cheap reasoning. I think we can all agree that no one has a right to judge a relationship except for the people involved. If it makes them happy, who are we to stand in their way? Love isn't black and white (and it certainly isn't Fifty Shades of Grey); everyone has their own emotions and thoughts about love. As The Beatles so wisely said, "All you need is love."

# Tips to the perfect evening

by Alex Yokules, BP Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is the time of the year where all the single people sit at home eating ice cream, while the rest of us have to spend money on expensive dates. But that's where I come in. I'm here to tell you about all the best date ideas for your significant other, so sit back, relax, and let the conductor of love take you on a smooth train ride to your next stop: love station.

First off, the drive to your date is important, so important in fact that if either one of you are driving, you'll be distracted from each other. The solution to this is to have your mom or dad drive you, plus you won't have to pay for gas.

If you really want to test the resolve of your date and see if they're worth keeping is, pick a nice Italian restaurant and order their most garlicky dish and chow down. When you're finished, you're going to want to talk as much as possible to keep them interested. If you're wondering about some possible conversation topics, I've got it covered with my top three to keep them interested: immigration, Donald Trump, and small loans of a million dollars. If it's a first date be sure to talk a lot about marriage, religion, and having kids. She'll love it!

If you're worrying about money, forget about it! Just tell your date you forgot your wallet and make them pay for the whole thing! They'll think it's cute and you'll laugh about it on the ride home with your mom.

With these helpful tips you can assure many dates to come with your lovely sir or lady!

# Tips for singles

by Tommy Blaha, BP Staff Writer

For all the single ladies and guys, don't worry, because your blessing is here. Now listen to good old Cupid while he gives the advice that you need and want so you can decide what to do on Valentine's Day: the day of love. let's get started with the first tip: go to a fancy restaurant and have a magical dinner date with yourself. This is necessary because not many people have ever thought to date themselves on Valentine's Day. Now people might think this is sad, but to be honest you are perfect for yourself.

The second tip is to treat yourself to some nice jewelry to appreciate your better half. Wear this to any occasion, like to the mall or a nice get together with friends. If you are starting to get inspired by the romantic ideas of Valentines Day then sit down and write some nice poetry. If you are simply feeling sad, just remember that you have a mother. Why not treat her to a nice charming sit-down restaurant and really tell her how much you love her. Another tip is that you could try a night on the town, and score a nice babe. Tired of feeling alone? You could always get yourself a very friendly turtle named Ralph or a nice German Shepherd named Rex to spend the night with. Everyone says that pets are perfect for lonely people that can't find anyone to love. You can help others fall in love as well, because you already know that no one cares about how you feel. Now you are probably wondering how these are tips, but these all come from the love master himself, St. Valentine. You should just grab a nice cup of hot cocoa and curl up and watch a movie with the ones that you love or alone, who cares?

# Valentine's to DIY for

by Breonna Barker, BP Staff Writer

## Bath Bombs



*photo courtesy of mycraftkid.com*

Ingredients
1 Cup Citric Acid
2 Cups Baking Soda
2 tbsp cornstarch
1 Oz shea butter or coconut butter (melted)
5-6 drops of choice of essential oils
1-2 drops red food coloring (optional)
Spray bottle of witch hazel
Silicone mold
Mason jar

Directions
In a mixing bowl combine cornstarch,Citric Acid, and baking soda, being sure to remove all bumps.
Add red food coloring, melted butter and essential oil, continuing to mix.
Using the spray bottle, spray the mixture 2-3 times and mix slowly adding more witch hazel until the mixture holds its shape when pressed together.
Press into silicone molds making sure to compact them tightly.
Allow to dry in molds for 12 hours then remove from mold and allow noonday an additional 24 hours for a hard bath bomb.
Make and homemade label and stick it on and mason jar filled with the bath bombs.
Recipe courtesy of crazyaboutmybaybah.com

## Heart Page Markers



*photo courtesy of craftandcreativity.com*

You will need:
Envelope
Sheet of white paper (for template)
Pencils
Scissor
Glue
Patterned Paper

Instructions
Fold a sheet of plain white paper diagonally. Draw an arc of a heart in the corner of the paper. Cut and fold out. The template is ready to use.
Place your heart shaped template on top of the bottom corner of an envelope. Cut around the template. There's your bookmark. Now it's time to make the heart that goes on top of it.
Draw a smaller heart inside of your heart template. Cut out. Use this smaller template and place it on the patterned paper. Cut around the template. The patterned heart is ready to use.
Put glue on the bottom of the patterned heart and place it in the middle of the bookmark.
Directions courtesy of craftandcreativity.com

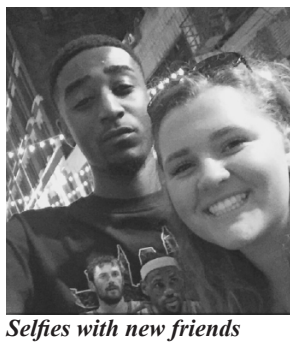
# Humans of Burton: City life from a small town perspective

by Lexi Sell, BP Staff Writer

Being a teenager in Burton, you find yourself wondering what to do for fun (a lot). I finally got to the point where I was old enough to go, and be free, and explore the world. I quickly took to the concert life my Sophomore year when my sister brought me to my first concert at Blossom: Lil Wayne on the Wanted Tour of 2013. It was the best moment of my life, I had finally got out of my little town and was able to feel the life that so rapidly radiated off the teenagers older than me. I saw their uncontrollable laughter and the freedom they felt as they jumped up and down under the endless night. I think that moment created my love for the living; seeing unconditional happiness became contagious and it made me want to drop all my worries and just enjoy the moment I had been captured in.

Throughout the eight concert tours, I've made some awesome friends that I still stay in touch with. Even if you don't stay connected, it's always fun to meet new people and hear new ideas. Just last week I was at the Agora to see Eddie Koziol aka Fleet, I was looking over to my right and I thought I knew this guy in front of me, he looked so familiar. I quickly pulled up a picture on my phone to double check my curiosity, and boldly went up to this possible stranger. The back story: My friends and I went down to Cleveland to watch the Final Four in the heart of the city right in between the strip with all the nightlife. This guy came up and started talking to me and a few of my friends, and after a little while we ending up taking a spontaneous picture to remember the moment. I never thought about it again. Rezoom back to the Agora last week, I walk over to this guy and show him the picture from summer as my friends all watched from a few feet away (I knew inside they were thinking there's no way it's the same guy). But when I showed it to him we both started breaking out laughing because in the thousands of people it actually was him. I go into the world and expose myself outside the comfort zone of my safe community and in return I win the reward of expanding my social horizons. Last year I met Trey Shaw, a guy who wanted to become a professional backup dancer and it was his first concert experience at the House of Blues seeing Somo and now I have a friend who I get to talk about arts and design and ambition for creativity.

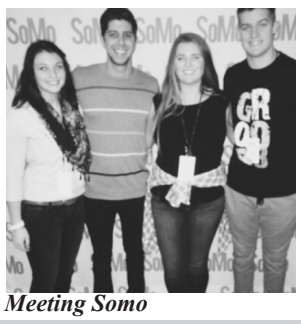
CurrentlyWW I'm really into small local artists because we have some really talented Clevelanders around us. Surprisingly I've never been to the Grog Shop so that's next on my hit list, along with seeing Lil Wayne again, and maybe Justin Bieber in April because everybody knows his new album is bomb. If you have never been to a concert, I would highly recommend it if you love people and want to get out of the 44021 for a few hours, it's a great time. There's just something so special and irresistible about that atmosphere of music and the high you get off life when you're around others who share the same liveliness.



*Selfies with new friends*



*Boys of Zummer Concert*



*Meeting Somo*

**In my concert junky endeavors I've been lucky enough to see:**

| Lil Wayne | Kid Ink | Chris Brown | French Montana |YG | G-Eazy | MGK| Hoodie Allen |Yo Gotti | Future (2) | Sage The Gemini | Packy Somo | Little Reese | Fall Out Boy | K Camp (3) | Migos (3) | Usher | 2 Chainz | Fleet | T.I | Ty Dolla $ign | Wiz Kalifa (2) | Chevy Woods | Kirko Bangz | Rae Sremmurd (2) | Kirko Bang | Teyana Taylor | Omarion | Fetty Wap | August Alsina |

# Words are powerful: How you use them is up to you

by Abbie Maschek, BP Staff Writer

A few months ago I was reading an online article, and happened to click on it because the title caught my eye. In the article, the author said: "If the words we spoke were shown on the outside, instead of the inside, how beautiful would we actually be?" This sent me thinking about all the mean words that I had thought about others the words I've said. I slowly began to remember the what others had said to me, or about me.

Most of us tend to hide behind a fake smile, trying not to let anyone know that we're hurting, but words do hurt. I'm sure all of us could go back in time to a day when someone said something extremely hurtful. I'm sure we could all recall where we were, what we were doing and what we were wearing. Words hurt, no matter what anyone chooses to believe or say, the hurtful things we say to one another can leave an lasting imprint on our lives. This is something that we are all guilty of.

Each of us on a daily basis thinks or says something hurtful to put someone down. But why do we really do it? Well, there are some potential reasonings behind it. Some believe that the reason why you're saying hurtful words is because someone else said those things about you. Others believe that the reason people behave like this is because they want to feel like they are the dominant one, or the one in full control. Some like to blame it on parents, believing that the reason they act the way they do is simply because it's how they were raised. No matter where the root of the words you say come from, they each carry a lasting effect. Have you ever thought what would happen if the words you spoke just lingered around you? Imagine walking throughout the halls, with those words hanging above your head? What would be portrayed? Words of positivity, lifting up those around you, or words of destruction bringing everyone you come in contact with down? You are the only one who has the power over what you say. I asked around Berkshire High to see if any brave souls wanted to share their personal experiences with negative words. Mrs. Darrow has been a substitute teacher at Berkshire for many years, and is loved by both the students and the staff. Bravely, Mrs. Darrow exposed her vulnerable side and shared some of her past experiences. When asked if she could remember the most negative thing anyone had ever said to her, with a slight pause, she responded with: "Yes, I can." She went on to further explain herself by saying: "at the age of five, an adult who I did not know looked at me and said 'you don't need that candy bar' and basically what he was insinuating was that a five year old was fat." She was then asked how she felt about what was said, "at that point in time I felt like he was depriving me. As a five year old you don't think too much about what adults say." To close, Mrs. Darrow was asked if she ever finds herself thinking about what happened, even to this day, she simply stated: "I currently do, I thought of this as soon as you asked me and I think that the reason why is because those words that this man used not knowing at the age of five, but as I grew older and they had so much power over me and over the way I thought about myself, my self image, the way I looked at myself and it was always a challenge for me. Even though this experience was very difficult for Mrs. Darrow, she has walked out as a strong woman. She shared with me that this taught her that "I am not who I think I am. I am, not who you think I am I am however, who I think you think I am". She went on to say that "I grew up trying to please everybody else and their image of me and how I presented myself, and I gave them the power to determine who I was. Today I don't do that, today I have my own power and today I am good with who I am."

An anonymous junior also decide to be brave and share her experiences with hurtful words. When they were asked if she could remember the most negative thing anyone had ever said to her, she responded with: "Yes, when I was younger, my father told me that I was practically worthless." How she felt about it was even worse: "I was heartbroken; our relationship has never been the same since." When asked if her remember anything about that day, she responded with: "We had been in a nasty argument. After that, we fought regularly." To finish up, she was asked if they ever found herself thinking about that time even today: "Yes, I still think about it more than I'd care to admit. I try to suppress memories like that."

Both of these stories bring hurtful situations to light. I know that there are many people out there that have gone through similar, if not the same things. What would our world look like if we began to start breaking the cycle, if we started to speak life over each other? I'm sure that our world would be a much better place. Let's stop ourselves from bringing others down, make showing real kindness the new normal. Our schools would become a better environment and our worlds would definitely change. You have the power to do that, what's holding you back?

# A new way to combat stress

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer



*Shannon McGee gets to work*

The world is a stressful place, learning to deal with that stress in a positive way that works for you is important to leading a healthy life. There are many techniques you can try to relieve stress, such as exercising, reading a book, meditation, or just doing something relaxing like watching your favorite show. Have you ever considered coloring in a coloring book?

Most people consider coloring a children's pastime, but a wave of "adult coloring books" or "therapeutic coloring books" have become increasingly popular. Infact, Amazon.com's number three "Top Holiday Best-Seller" of 2015 was one of these coloring books. For good reason too, coloring is a great way to get your mind off some of the more stressful aspects of life and unwind for a little while, and in the process you can create something really beautiful.

According to Dr. Joel Pearson, a brain scientist at the University of New South Wales in Australia, "You have to look at the shape and size, you have to look at the edges, and you have to pick a color. It should occupy the same parts of the brain that stops any anxiety-related mental imagery happening as well… Anything that helps you control your attention is going to help." Joe Bennington, a Junior at Berkshire, when asked about his thoughts regarding the subject he replied "Coloring promotes good brain thoughts." While the science in this field is still young and there aren't many studies to back it up, it is still worth a try, you never know if it may work for you.

# The Abominable Bride explained

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Writer




*Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. John Watson pose for a photo.*

Warning: Spoilers Ahead! If you haven't seen the latest episode of BBC's Sherlock, skip this article and come back later. The fourth season of this modern, incredibly witty take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes premiered on January 1, 2016. To all Sherlock lovers, this was the perfect way to kick off the new year. Fans had been anticipating the new season for over a year. This leaves us wondering, "Why such a huge season gap?" Maegan Gaffney, a sophomore, explains that the actors have many other shows and movies to work on. In fact, Martin Freeman (John Watson) starred as Bilbo Baggins, the proper and well mannered hobbit in J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit (2012-2014). The Hobbit trilogy took three years to make, so Freeman worked on Sherlock and The Hobbit simultaneously. Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock Holmes) worked alongside Freeman in The Hobbit, playing the voice of Smaug, a terrifying dragon. Cumberbatch also worked on The Imitation Game (2014) and Black Mass (2015).

The premiere of season four is called "The Abominable Bride." The first half of the episode is set in late 1800's London, much like the setting of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. The episode is unlike all others because of this. It starts off as Watson and Sherlock meeting for the first time, and plays through the important events of their relationship. Then, we are introduced to the case. A woman was seen threatening people with a shotgun, and then killing herself with it. However, the townspeople are shocked to hear that the alleged dead woman was walking around killing people. Sherlock and Watson were immediately put to the case. We learn that the dead woman's name was Lady Carmichael, and she found out her husband was not faithful. She found him at a bar, and with many witnesses, she eliminates him with the same shotgun she later passes from. Afterwards, Sherlock finds out that Lady Carmichael was a member of a group of women fighting situations involving unfaithful husbands. In order to fake her death, Lady Carmichael stood out on her balcony, pointed the gun at the ground, shot it, and fell down. Meanwhile, one of her friends splashed the curtain behind her with blood-colored water. This caused the town, including her husband, to believe she was dead. Then, she traveled to find her husband and kill him. In order to cover up her husband's murder, she had the women lie her down on the floor in her room and, reluctantly, fulfill the town's suspicions by ending her life. Soon after, we are zapped back into real-life, with Sherlock waking up from a dream-like state on the plane where we were left off in season three. We then learn that Sherlock had retreated into his "mind castle" where The Abominable Bride case lay unsolved. Sherlock played out the events, as if he were there, in order to solve the mystery. However, we are still left to wonder, "What happened with Moriarty?" Well, in order to find out, we'll just have to wait for the story to unfold.

# Massive materialism

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

If you've ever been shopping, which I assume most everyone has, you are familiar with the sensation of buying something new. It's fresh and crisp: ready to create memories in/with. However, the majority of shoppers, including myself, often forget to ask themselves a vital question before handing over their credit card: do you really need it? Well of course! It's only $15, it's the last shirt in your size not to mention you have the perfect pair of jeans to wear with it. So why not?

For starters, you don't need the shirt, you want it - huge difference. You have plenty of other shirts to wear, but you really really want this one! Why? Because when you buy something you get this little high that makes you feel like you can buy the whole world if you just so pleased. But that powerful feeling doesn't last forever, and after it's gone, you feel even worse than before. It's almost as though you have a hole in your stomach, and all you're left with is a shirt you're only going to wear a handful of times and $15 less in your bank account.

Studies have shown that people binge buy because they've been emotionally damaged in their lifetime, and they are trying to find a way to be happy by filling it with stuff. It may sound like a huge load of bogus, but the next time you go shopping, monitor the way you feel throughout the day, you may be surprised. There are plenty of pictures out there of teenagers and young adults surrounded by bags of Gucci, Couture,Versace, and Prada smiling away, but there is something missing from their eyes. They're lonely. These designer brands offer no comfort or love whatsoever, all they offer is a broke bank account.

As well as binge buying, people often purchase items for appearance or status. This has to do with the whole keeping up with The Joneses ordeal, where people buy and buy hoping to outdo their neighbors in a money war. Everybody wants to be looked up to and admired, and if that means buying until you're so deep in debt you'll be paying it off for the next 370 years, so be it. People are afraid of being weak or vulnerable, and a lack of wealth is often associated with that, so instead of admitting you're low on money, you go out and blow it all on things you don't need and can't afford. This problem stems once again from society like so many others before it. You're constantly worried people will see you wear a shirt twice in a time span that is too short, and they'll think you're poor. Number one, who cares what other people think of you, if you love that shirt and want to wear, go for it! Number two, not being able to afford a ton of different shirts isn't something to be ashamed of, most likely other people are struggling with the same problem, even if it doesn't seem like it on the outside. Number three, to be completely honest with you, most people don't really care if you wear the same shirt more than once every two weeks, it's all in that paranoid little head of yours. So stop worrying about it, and stop blowing all your cash just to please others.

Now that we've diagnosed the problem, it's time to cure it! Instead of going to the mall just to buy, go with a purpose. Know what you have to buy before you even leave the house, this way you have a list to stick to, and you won't just buy because you can. You'll save yourself a ton of regret, grief and money this way. Also, there is no need to buy designer just because of the label. Who cares what the brand of your jeans or shoes are? I know I sure don't. If you can purchase a jacket for a third of the price at store A instead of store B, then do it! A little label/tag shouldn't define you, not to mention it saves cash like no other.

Instead of shopping at the mall, hit up some other smaller stores, even thrift shops. When you buy from these places, they're super cheap and you can refashion whatever you want however you want! Not to mention it is re-using clothes, which is totally awesome. Our society has a really bad habit of buying an article of clothing, wearing it twice, and tossing it. Often times, we don't want to fix or reuse anything because it's simply easier and more convenient to go out and buy a new one. Wake up people! Stop being lazy and do the right thing for once, even if it requires a little extra ATP (that big fancy science word for energy), it's totally worth it.



*Senior Taelor Charvot shows off her new purchases!*

# 2015 Music wrap-up

by Sydney Mighton, BP Staff Writer

Nothing can quite compare to the feeling of bliss experienced when listening to a new album from one's favorite artist. 2015 was filled with great albums from many different genres. If you want to relive your favorite albums from 2015, keep reading.

Hip-hop music produced a handful of awesome albums. Nicki Minaj released The Pinkprint in early January of 2015. This album included well known songs "Anaconda" and "Only (featuring Drake, Lil Wayne and Chris Brown)." Drake let out his album If You're Reading This, It's Too Late which included the extremely popular hit, "Hotline Bling." Kendrick Lamar came out with the number one Hip-Hop album of 2015, according to Billboard's Year in Music 2015, called To Pimp A Butterfly. This album includes the popular hits "i", and "These Walls."

On to the country genre; it's no question that country came out with some outstanding albums in 2015. Sam Hunt, for example, is considered more of a pop-country artist, but his album Montevallo has some really catchy singles on it. This includes "House Party", and "Break Up In A Small Town." Crazy-talented American Idol winner, Carrie Underwood, came out with her album titled Storyteller, including hits "Renegade Runaway," and "Dirty Laundry".

Pop music in 2015 was a year of comebacks. Adele came out with her new album 25 in late 2015. She started this album out with releasing her single "Hello," this was just the beginning of her amazing comeback. Justin Bieber had an indescribable come back in 2015 with his album Purpose. This album is bringing back Bieber-fever without any of us realizing. The catchy and extremely powerful songs "Love Yourself" and "Sorry" are the two major hits from this album, even though the whole album is simply amazing.

It's safe to say that 2015 brought yet another year of great music to our pop culture.




***Above is the album cover of Justin Bieber's "Purpose" album.***

# Most anticipated movies of 2016 coming your way

by Amelia Monroe, BP Staff Writer

This list of the top fifteen most anticipated movies of 2016 hits nearly every genre, and is sure to make everyone excited. Whether you are a superhero fan or Disney movies are your thing, 2016 is going to be your year. With their expected (not official) release dates you can begin your countdown to your new favorite movie! Some of these you may not have heard of yet, and some you have been waiting on for years (Finding Dory). Even if you are not a big fan of superhero movies, Captain America Civil War and Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice should still be on your must see list. The battle of Batman and Superman has been a long debated battle, and it's about time they made a movie about it. Some very serious and heated conversations have come from the simple question: Batman or Superman? Another much needed movie is The Secret Life of Pets. If you watch the trailer for this upcoming film, you will automatically fall in love, and if you have pets, begin to wonder what do they REALLY do when you're not there? It may be a children's movie but I have a feeling people of all ages will be attending this one. There are many more movies that will come out in 2016 that you will love, and these are only the top 15!

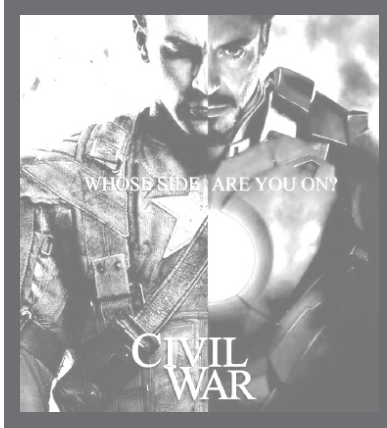
*Deadpool*
February 12, 2016




*Independence Day Resurgence*
June 24, 2016




*Captain America Civil War*
May 6, 2016



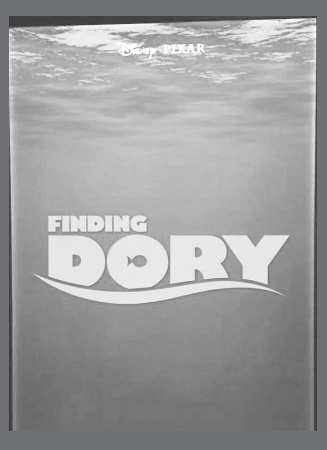

*Warcraft*
June 10, 2016



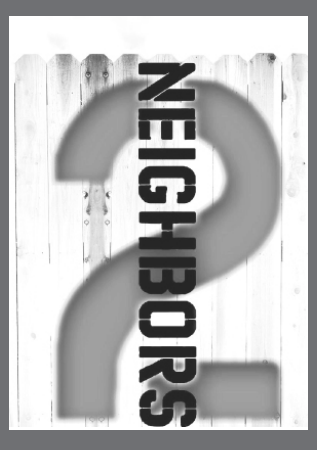

*Suicide Squad*
August 9, 2016



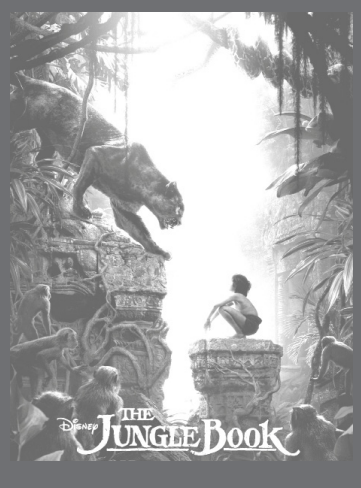

*Finding Dory*
June 17, 2016




*Neighbors 2*
May 9, 2016




*The Jungle Book*
April 15, 2016




*X-Men: Apocalypse*
May 27, 2016




*The Secret Life of Pets*
*July 8, 2016*




*Star Trek Beyond*
July 22, 2016




*Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*
March 25, 2016



# Films and Literature: what you need to explore

by Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Writer




Photo courtesy of photobucket.com

**A collage of classic movies you could also consider watching.**

Everyone has seen a movie or read a book that they feel they must share with someone. I talked with avid movie and Netflix watcher, Asya Martin, and asked for some recommendations. Her first thoughts went to sports themed movies, such as Coach Carter, Rocky, and Remember the Titans. Coach Carter follows Ken Carter, who acquires a coaching job at his old high school for basketball in a poor neighborhood in Richmond, California. Carter puts in a strict regimen that not all the players agree with, which leads to strained relationships between the coach and some players. IMDb gives this movie a 7.2/10.

Rocky and Remember the Titans are both pretty popular movies, so I'll only briefly describe them. Rocky is a boxing movie about a second string boxer, Rocky Balboa, getting his shot at fame and the struggles it takes to get there. Remember the Titans is about a first year African American football coach and his struggles with working with a newly racially integrated high school football team. While Remember the Titans has a 7.8/10, Rocky has an 8.1/10.

The next movie she mentioned was the most recently made of all the films she discussed. Unbroken tracks Olympian Louis Zamperini as his plane crashes, leaving him stranded, only to be caught and put in a WWII Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. This dramatic film also has an IMDb score of 7.2/10.

The last movie she recommended was The Lion King: "You didn't have a childhood if you didn't see that movie." If you haven't seen this movie: Why? Who are you? What did you do as a child? No one could not love the brave and adventurous details of the life of Simba from cub to lion. It's no wonder that this movie has the highest rating of 8.5/10.

Now we'll shift our attention to must-read books. Looking for a good war book? American Sniper by Chris Kyle is a great book for you, with a rating of 3.9/5 from goodreads. Perhaps you prefer romance? Everyone tears up when reading The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks.

A great science fiction dystopian book is The Marbury Lens by Andrew Smith. After a terrible incident, Jack, the main protagonist receives a pair of glasses that take him to a different world when he looks through the lenses, which is in the midst of a losing war against a terrible enemy. Jack has to balance the relationships he had before the glasses, while trying to aid new friends during the war. Going along with the theme of dystopian worlds, The Hunger Games series will always be on my "must read" list, with its strong female protagonist and action filled chapters.

Two more classic reads are Fight Club and The Godfather. Sorry I can't give you a description of Fight Club because we're not supposed to talk about it, but The Godfather follows a New York Mafia family as they try to keep the Mafia from falling apart. Of course both of these books are also movies, but I always recommend reading the novel before watching the film.

**"If you haven't seen this movie: Why? Who are you? What did you do as a child? No one could not love the brave and adventurous details of the life of Simba from cub to lion."**

The last movie and book I advise you to watch and read is The Princess Bride. Now this suggestion might be a little biased, since it's my favorite movie, but with good cause. Since I don't think I can properly describe it, I'll just leave this here: "What's it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A Few Giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women… Death, Lies, Truth, Miracles."

# People watching in public

by George Fekete, BP Staff Writer

The mall and movies are two largely stereotyped places, for one simple reason:

They serve to an abundance of youth and are free from most adults. Here is a list of some of the most popular stereotypes of people out there:

MOVIES

The Snappers: These are the groups of young girls and guys who seem to never leave Snapchat.You can see them snapping pictures and videos throughout the entire movie, which is unfortunate for you because there is a constant flashing phone in your face. Ew. The only reason we're not going to hate all the way is because who doesn't want that perfect snap of a shirtless actor?

The Cow Chewers: Whether they're chewing popcorn or taking long, loud slurps from a drink that is pretty much gone, we all have to sit and listen to the "Cow Chewers" And even though the movies have those super loud speakers that make your bones vibrate, you can still hear them. "CHOMP CHOMP" *Slurping.* Sometimes I wonder if they just enjoy hearing themselves chew.

The Phone Callers: These are the soccer moms and young careless teens who, in the middle of the movie, will not inconvenience themselves and answer their phone, carrying out an entire conversation:

("Hey, you busy?") No i'm totally free! what's up…how's your mom been doing with that rash?"

The Lovers: These are the couples who sit through the movie making out, and not a simple peck on the lips, but instead a full on makeout session.

**"Sometimes our heads are so focused on ourselves that we don't even realize the people surrounding us."**

12 Kids and Counting: These are the stressed out mothers who are watching over 12 young kids during a movie. This is probably the worst of all, because young kids are always, hungry, thirsty, bored, or leaving to use the restroom. This makes for a long movie of silhouetted figures standing up in front of you.

Last but certainly not least, we know the Emotional ones: These are the types of people who start balling their eyes out, just sitting there crying. Weirdly, they are probably crying during a comedy. Come on, get your life together.



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

MALL

It's Been Forever: These are the groups of friends that have obviously been fighting a long dramatic fight for years and haven't seen each other's faces in decades. No matter how much they hate each other they still find room in their hearts to make up and give the most dramatic hello hugs! They all bunch up hugging and repeating themselves on how it's been "absolutely too long!" taking up every inch of the main walkways, or worse in front of your favorite store: Forever 21.

The Hopeless Romantic: This is most likely one of your friends, who stands around the mall all day long watching and pointing out super attractive girls and guys. Even though they end up pointing out over a hundred people they think are hot, they still can't find the courage to actually go talk to them.

And of course, like in the movies, there is always the 12 Kids and Counting which is that super stressed mother or father who is in the mall buying like thirty different outfits trying so hard to please everyone under the circumstances.

Sometimes our heads are so focused on ourselves that we don't even realize the people surrounding us, so next time you're at the mall or the movies do some people watching.

# Snow day survival answers

by Andrea Miller, BP Staff Writer

We all know that feeling, that rush of excitement as we lay in our bed, on a cold snowy dark morning, seeing on our phones that Berkshire is closed. We get a little giddy, text a few of our friends, then we attempt to fall back asleep because today is a snow day.

What are your favorite activities to do on snow days?

Freshmen, Dani Leonetti: ”On snow days I lay in my basement by my fire and drink tea , while watching netflix.”

Sophomore, Meehan Casalandra, “ I sleep in. When I wake up I make myself a really good breakfast, read a little, then do my chores around the house”

Sophomore, Jacob Hanson, “ I play with my dogs, then go to the grocery store with my mom and we go home and bake,”

Junior, Danny Humes, “Sleep sleep and sleep.”

Junior, Melissa Braun, “Snow days are pretty great. I get to sleep in and then finish up homework I didn’t do and lounge around all day and watch netflix!”

Senior, Maddie Timmons, “Hmm. Besides sleeping? Probably playing in the snow with Sophie tbh (my dog).”

Senior Logan Kumher, “First thing on the list is sleeping in. second thing is eating a bunch of food. I love playing video games like NBA 2k16, umm eating more food, and going to hangout with friends, and eating food.”

As the winter weather continues to grow upon us, hopefully we will be able to use some of these snow days ideas. Whether you decide to have a group of your friends over and bake, or have a movie marathon, your snow day will be special. So, Burton, Ohio, please, we are begging you, bring on the snow, do not be afraid to add some Lake effect snow as well. Or maybe we should all sleep with our pajamas inside out . That’s supposed to work, right? Either way, we’re hoping some snow days are in our near future.

**A little angel captures snowflakes with tounge**

*photo courtsy of abc.go.com*



# Five things you need in your car for the winter

by Justin Duda, BP Staff Writer

There are many things you should have in your car during the winter, but here the top five basic items you need. Some of the things I would put in my car: clothing accessories (clothes, hats, gloves), a blanket, cat litter (to help if I get stuck), jumper cables (if my car dies), and a flashlight.

As I interviewed some of my peers, I came to a realization that a lot of people think alike, besides one person in particular, Mrs. Ryks. She would bring a George Foreman Grill (because you never know when you’ll need to grill a steak), seven pairs of shoes, food, a volleyball (to play volleyball of course), and seltzer water.

Seniors Tyler Dennis and Adam Stegh had similar lists. Dennis said his top five items in his car for the winter would include a snow brush, gloves, blanket, sand (just in case he goes off the road), and a flashlight. Adam Stegh also said a snow brush with an ice scraper, gloves/ hats, blankets, chains (so a truck can pull you out if you get stuck), as well as a portable battery charger.

Junior, Isaac Bryant, was different with his selections of items for winter travels. Bryant said he would definitely put a spare tire in his car because you never know when you’ll blow a tire, emergency gas money, a change of clothes, an electric portable mini heater, and rock salt.

Sophomore, Jared Hinkle, said he would definitely need his aux cord,



*photo courtesy of west-palm-beach-fishing.*

**An example of what your kit might look like**

gas in the tank, snow tires, a snow brush with an ice scraper, and extra clothing.

Certain important items such as a snowbrush or winter accessories are more essential than things such as a phone charger or an aux cord. When you ask yourself what you should put in your car for the next Ohio winter, you may want to consider these items. Note that these are the top five, and you will want to bring more in case of a severe situation. The majority of the interviewees agreed on these top five: a snowbrush (preferably with an ice scraper), winter clothing (hats, gloves, jackets), a blanket, something to help you if you’re stuck (chains or some type of compound to get traction or to melt the snow), and money (in case you need to purchase some food or gas at a nearby gas station.)

# Open season at alpine

by Noah McCaskey, BP Staff Writer

For all of you snowboarders and skiers out there, the time has finally come for the local ski resort, Alpine Valley, to open for the season, along with Boston Mills Brandywine. When the snow finally arrived, some new renovations in the lodge of Alpine came as well: a set of stairs has been moved to make room for a spacious checkout area, the entirety of the lodge is now covered in rubber floors making it much easier to move around compared to the old, slippery tiles. Picnic table style seating is available in the back half now. Alpine also has a magic carpet for the younger ones who aren’t quite ready for the lifts yet but still want to tear up the slopes.

Boston Mills Brandywine are two separate skiing hills adjacent to each other. Located on 1146 West Highland Rd, Sagamore Hills, OH 44067 is the Boston Mills hill and on 7100 Riverview Road, Peninsula, OH 44264-0175 is Brandywine. As for Alpine, 10620 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, OH 44026. All of the ski resorts offer individual instructors for skiing and snowboarding lessons ranging from beginner to experienced lessons.

Brandywine has a lot to offer this year as well. Their hill long terrain park is back again (as always) and they are holding a Rail Jam, January 24 which is open to all, just call ahead for more details. The Park includes: The Pill, basically a 20 foot long propane to go all out on, over 20 different progression rails, and when a better base layer of snow is formed, a line of three or four kickers (jumps) will be put in. Another event that they host is College Late Night, January 22, where the whole park is open until 1 a.m., allowing skiers to get a couple extra hours of good riding in. These events are pretty intense for the local skiers so you will definitely see some gnarly tricks being thrown down.

Boston Mills is a more family oriented ski resort with smaller, more simple hills that can be enjoyed by snow enthusiasts of all ages. They offer one easy hill and two more difficult hills that someone new to skiing could tackle with ease. They also offer a variety of other hills once you get the hang of it. Even the young shredders that aren’t able to hit the park over at Brandywine have two terrain parks to master all the moves they can think of.

Although the season just started and it seems that the snow took way too long to show up, opening day was just a week later than last year, so don’t expect your season to be cut short all that much.

**Journey down one of Apline’s many hills for a incline of fun**



# Organize your upcoming semester

by Kaitlyn Moses, BP Staff Editor

Semester, schmemester, you've got this in the bag.

The new semester; it provides a great opportunity to do whatever it is that held you back last semester. For many, that's getting and/ or staying organized. There are tons of tips and tricks that can help you stay organized, from note taking, to labeling, but the key to organization may lie in your habits and thought processes.

You can label, organize, and reorganize all you want, but without the determination and want for it to work, it's not going to happen. You need discipline.

"Discipline gives you more than inspiration ever will. Inspiration is quick. Discipline is the constant work that gets done whenever inspiration is gone" - Anonymous

But more than that even, you need a drive. Think about why you want to become organized. Do you hope you'll be able to earn better grades? Do you want to lessen your stress levels when it comes to clutter? Or maybe you just want to make your notes and assignments pleasing to look at. Find any reason- it's better than none- and use that reason to keep you going. Don't give up a week into the new semester, power through and thrive! When the year ends, you'll be thankful you did.

There are many programs that can keep online files organized. My personal favorite is the famous, Google docs, but other popular one's include, OneDrive and OneNote. These can be used as a sort of digital notebook for every file you want to save. They also use the cloud service so you won't lose files even if your computer bites the dust.

Apps are useful in terms of organization, just be sure to avoid procrastinating on your phone or iPad. Quizlet allows you to create and study from flashcards while an app I recently discovered called Gojimo provides practice ACT, SAT, GCSE, AP, and other exam questions. To stay focused, I use an app called Forest. You simply set a timer and it begins to grow a virtual tree on your phone! When the timer ends, it'll be fully grown, but you cannot leave the app or the tree will die. You can grow a whole forest, hence the name, and visit it whenever you'd like!

Organization can be a real feat for some, while others come by it naturally. If you're anything like me, it's a constant struggle. I've found these programs and apps to be useful along with nice stationary and a new found determination to study and succeed this semester. If you're looking for a sign or final push that tells you "GET ORGANIZED AND STUDY HARD THIS SEMESTER," this is it, do it and thank me (or just yourself) when every other kid is swamped and you're still calm and collected.






# Debate Club:Come one, come all

Meetings for Berkshire Jr./Sr. High school's newest extracurricular activity, debate club, have begun! The club, supervised by our very own Mr. Higgs, began mid second quarter, and is quickly attracting more participants. The members had their first debate on Thursday, December 17th. Around 20 students made up of Freshmen through Seniors gathered to have a formal debate regarding the question, "regarding a ticking time-bomb situation, are the use of enhanced interrogation methods justified?" The teams debated for an hour, and after a series of well informed and delivered arguments, the judging was turned over to Ms. Bomback. In a close scoring end, it was concluded that the team debating against the use of enhanced interrogation won.

If this is the first time you're hearing about the club, or if you're looking to join, there is still time! To join, simply attend one of the meetings, held in Mr. Higgs room, 113. Listen to the morning announcements for dates and times.

# Third quarter resolutions: What you're doing wrong

by Amy Pfiester, BP Staff Writer

It's official, the school year is halfway done! It's time to make some changes. Did you have ten zero's for homework impacting your Spanish grade? Does your locker smell? If the second question applies to you, do your locker neighbors a favor and clean your gym clothes for a change. Most students probably have at least one flaw that they would like to change, let's find out what Berkshire students are dying to change. Three questions were asked: What is your resolution? Why? Who demonstrates your resolution?

**(7th Grade)** Chase Crea Chase hopes to earn better grades this quarter. He believes that his grades were not spectacular in the past. Crea's role model for better grades is Seth Jokinen, a fellow seventh grader.

**(8th Grade)** Lexi Boyk Lexi wants to keep her grades up because she wants to be able to continue playing sports, such as track. Grace Lillibridge supposedly keeps a G.P.A. that's high enough to be the eligible star athlete she is, and that's why Boyk admires her.

**(Freshman)** Spencer Price Price's third quarter goal is to be a better person. He says, "If I am a better person then life will be easier for me and make me more successful." Price's role model for this is his dad, who has shown him the value of being a good person.



*Amber weeping at the sight of her chemistry*

**(Sophomore)** Amber Taraska. Amber's resolution is to "get an A in chemistry." Her reasoning is that chemistry is difficult and it makes her want to cry. Jack Squire, an incredible student, is the one Taraska wants to model her chemistry success after.

**(Junior)** Austin Toth. Toth hopes to earn a better grade in Algebra II for third quarter. There's a simple reason for that; he wants a better math grade. Emily Young has a good Algebra II grade, and Toth would like to be like her in regards to math class.

**(Senior)** Amber Brickell. Brickell hopes to prevent senioritis and keep at least a 4.0 G.P.A. because she wants to keep working hard through senior year and boost her class rank. Brickell feels that many seniors slack off in their final year of high school, but instead wants to model her senior year after Megan Arnold because she consistently worked hard through her last days at Berkshire.

Now that you know how fellow students plan to improve themselves, maybe you have some ideas. While some classes, such as Chemistry and Algebra, might just make you want to cry, we are halfway done with this year! Good luck to all readers who plan on bettering themselves this quarter. Happy Second Semester!