THE BADGER PAUSE

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A lot on our Little Women

By Hannah Keough, BP Asst. Editor

This past weekend, Berkshire thespians presented the play Little Women. For weeks leading up to the production, the cast, crew, director and some loyal Berkshire alumni worked tirelessly to perfect the production for the stage.

In order to prepare for the show, the thespians spend time in rehearsal, working on delivery of their lines and blocking on stage, and when school is let out early and after-school activities are cancelled, the cast gets together as a group to run through as many scenes as possible. Each aspect of practice can prove to have it's challenges. Junior Josiah Cheung, who played the role of "Laurie" in the play, says the most difficult part of preparation is "getting comfortable when all eyes are on you... Practicing your lines and messing up because its practice; that's the hardest thing for me personally, but it trains you for the stage," because in theatre you must practice to be perfect through both mistakes and flawless practice.



Acting as the lead, "Jo", senior Aiden Burkley must spent extra time and effort to train herself for the stage. Burkley has been in virtually every Berkshire production since her freshman year, from The Suessical through Cinderella, and upon being cast as the lead, Burkley discloses, "It's something I have always dreamt of doing, but never really thought I could handle. Being the focus of a story I really adore… It is really the best thing that has happened to me, for sure." Above all, Burkley says the most crucial aspect of the performing arts is to respect others working on and behind stage, because no matter their position, every member is crucial to the finality of the production and shares a passion for the performing arts.

Passion is the driving force behind the hard work, relentless repetition of lines, and constant criticism. It is what inspires those actors and actresses to completely step out of their own skin and into the costume of their character. It is how to deal with/undermine the pressures of being on stage, because, as stated by senior Dayna Rackozy, who plays the eldest sister, "Meg", in the play, "You have to make sure that you don't… mess up, because everyone's riding on you." And seeing that perfection is nearly impossible, when a mistake does occur, it has to be integrated into the motion of things on stage as though it were intentional, so to the unknowing eye, the performance appears seamless.

Also playing into the appearance of the performance is, of course, the set, constructed and perfected by the stage crew.

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Thanksgiving? What you need to know

By Nick Misconin, BP Staff Writer

With the school year blazing by most students look forward to the holidays and holiday breaks. Thanksgiving break, being the first holiday break of the year, is highly anticipated. The holiday itself is wonderful: lots of food, family and much more. What if I were to tell you that everything you thought you knew about Thanksgiving is a lie? Well, I'm sorry to do this, but in the name of historical facts I must give you a history lesson on our turkey-chomping holiday.

The first Thanksgiving is typically referenced as a feast between the colonists and Native Americans, right? Yeah, that never exactly happened. This feast actually was celebrated as the start of the harvest season, which was already a holiday celebrated as early as a hundred years prior. Also, the only reason some of the Wampanoag tribe arrived at the pilgrim's village is because the pilgrims were firing off their rifles in celebration of the harvest. Due to the fact that the Natives outnumbered the pilgrims 2:1 they allowed the Natives to celebrate with them. This could have lead to some confusion of how the first Thanksgiving went down.

Thanksgiving was always a holiday in America, right? Well not quite, Thanksgiving was actually declared an official holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. He did this to ease tensions during the Civil War and used the holiday as an example of unity. Holidays are seen as a symbol of unity because it brings people together to celebrate a common cause. Originally Thanksgiving was the fourth Thursday of November. Later, Theodore Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving back to the third Thursday of November. This was done to prolong the Christmas shopping season by a week. The general public disliked this action and Roosevelt moved it back to the fourth Thursday of the month two years later.

Okay, so the pilgrims probably had to have eaten some turkey, right? Unfortunately, no, they did not have any turkey at the first Thanksgiving. They did however have fowl, venison, pumpkin, succotash (a dish containing corn and various beans



and potentially peppers), and Indian corn. Potatoes and sweet potatoes were not introduced to the colonists yet at this time. They were later introduced throughout the 19th century.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to catch up with family members and enjoy great food. Maybe this year you now will be able to educate those about what Thanksgiving was really like. Of course, the Thanksgiving of then and now is much different, but things do evolve and change over time.

Behind the scenes of injuries

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

Injuries, what athletes (and coaches) fear most, are an unexpected part of any sport, and the severity of it can depend. Athletes train all year to compete in the sport they love, or worse yet, get hurt playing a sport that isn't their number one priority. There is a significant mental battle that accompanies an injury, and is far more challenging than the physical aspect (which is often not realized).

The most common severe injuries among athletes are a torn labrum in the shoulder, severe ankle sprains, any tearing of significant ligaments/tendons in the knee, and concussions. These injures keep athletes at the high school, collegiate, and professional level out for a significant period of time, depending on the severity. Most injuries, like some of the ones listed, can involve intense physical therapy, and the word athletes dread to hear, "rest." The most challenging part of any injury is attempting to keep a positive attitude, even though everything at the moment seems to be going wrong. It is easy to be negative and take the easy way out by doing so, but negative thoughts will only slow down your progression and add to the already rough mental battle. There are so many thoughts to balance during the healing process; however, it is proven that positive thoughts and energy are one of the best sources of healing. When positivity is on your mind, it begins to help you heal physically and give you more energy to improve your focus toward your goals.

A few ideas that can help you get on the right track to having a more positive attitude can be seeing a sports psychologist, practicing meditation, or simply writing yourself positive reminders every day. Focusing on what you can control you will realize will keep your mind focused on moving forward. After all, you cannot change the result of the injury, but you can control your attitude in respect to the impediment.



Photo courtesy of highpoint.edu

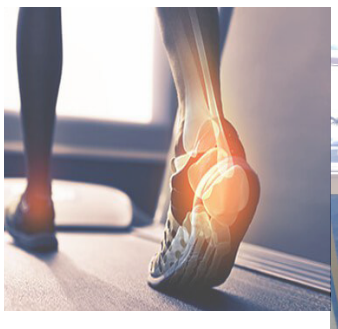
Although your goal for returning to your sport may seem far away, and the rehab may be daunting, making small goals for your progress is key. Creating small goals will help you recognize that, although your ultimate goal seems distant, the right steps are being taken in order to get there. The smaller goals help keep you motivated to compete against yourself; during an injury, athletes realize that their biggest competition is themselves. This is a time where you are in control of your destiny in terms of returning to what you enjoy.

It can be intimidating, but it is important to be strong and rise to the occasion.

Being involved with your team and supporting them is one of the best things to help the healing process. It can lift spirits and motivate you to work even harder to get back on the court/field with them when you are healthy. By sitting and watching the game, you learn more about your sport from another perspective that will help you when you return. By sitting out, it makes an athlete mentally strong by having to watch the team; when the athlete returns, they become a better and more positive teammate.

It is important to find small things to make you happy and lift your spirits during your injury, because it is easy to get down quickly. Watch the sport you love on TV, or simply just hang out with your team. Associate yourself with people that are supportive and understanding during this time; you will realize these kind of people are essential. There is plenty of fear that comes along with an injury, the fear of the extent of time needed to sit out, surgery, and the rehabilitation process. Focusing on what you can control in order to help yourself during this time is essential to the healing process. The mental process for any athlete from the highest to lowest level of sports remains the same. The same feelings of helplessness, disappointment, and fear remain similar. During your recovery, you realize many things about yourself you have never known, mainly because they had never been discovered. An athlete can discover inner strength, courage, and new attitudes. Your motivation is more powerful than ever, and the love for the game is increased beyond comprehension. It is the best feeling in the world reaching your ultimate goal, getting cleared back to full activities. The excitement to return to practice and the first game back is almost unmanageable. Not only do others see a difference in your personality, you become more confident in yourself. When you return to practice, your attitude is completely different. You feel appreciative that you are healthy and able to play; you begin to focus on the positives, and not let the smaller things affect your performance.

Injuries are known to be one of the most difficult challenges an athlete can endure, it is important to embrace the struggle, learn new things about yourself and appreciate things you never had before. When you return, you feel nothing is impossible, and can begin to focus on your new goals.







Artist features

by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer

At Berkshire High School there are a multitude of hidden talents in its students. Not everyone knows what some decide to spend their free time on- be it singing songs, painting landscapes, or writing poetry.

Jess Skedel- Multi-media artist

What kind of art do you like to do most?
I don't really have a specific art. It's kind of all over the place, like me.
What inspired you to do your art?
I didn't really become passionate about art until Ms. Leikala became my art teacher. She's provided opportunities for me and she's given me the means to experiment with different art variations.
What does art mean to you, and why is it so important?
I don't think that you need a meaning or reason behind art. It's kind of a free for all, and that's why I like it.



Jess constructed this glass pattern in Ms. Leikala's art class.

Maegan Gaffney- Writer

What genre of writing do you enjoy most? Why?
I like writing adventure, usually with aspects of sci-fi or fantasy. I like it cause it's fun, and it's something that no one can actually experience in the real world.
What inspired you to begin writing?
I was such a tiny baby when I started writing I don't remember. I think I just really liked stories.
How do you express yourself through your writing?
I don't think I really consciously express myself through writing, I just really enjoy it. I guess I do like making characters that are like people I'd like to see in the world, people I'd possibly relate to or like to be, depending on the characters. Then again some of my characters are terribly shady.
Why is it so important to you?
I love creating worlds and characters and stories. It's like you literally take nothing and make something, which is really rad.

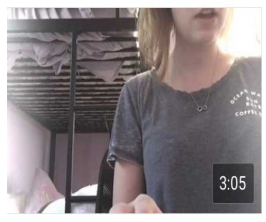
From one of Maegan's pieces:

"Petyr stood on the edge of the water, daughter in his arms. She was hardly a few weeks old, skin dewy and partially scaled. She did not cry when she was born, rather her breathing came out in rasps. Her mother had drawn her into the water, but there her breaths came no easier. She was a cursed creature, born from a blessing now absent."

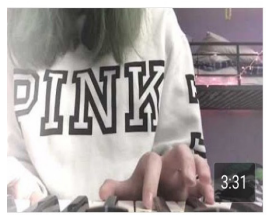
Liz Ward- Singer-songwriter

What kind of music do you do?
I play piano, occasionally, and it's mostly acoustic. I play my own songs that I write and post them on my Youtube channel.
How were you inspired to do your music?
My uncle influenced me to start posting my music on Youtube. Though, artists like Dave Matthews and Amy Winehouse inspired me a lot. I grew up with a lot of calming music surrounding me and teaching me. I also really love writing and always have.
What does it mean to you, why is it so important?
I really like sharing my ideas through my music, and maybe inspiring people. It's such a good time to be coming up with ideas and creating things with all this technology at hand. Right now my music is just a hobby, but I would love to expand it.

Find her music on Youtube at
Liz Ward:



Puzzle- Liz Ward
44 views · 3 months ago



Mellifluous- Liz Ward
41 views · 7 months ago

Picky Potatoes

by Heather Papp, BP Staff Writer

All across America, Thanksgiving is celebrated in different ways. Most people eat turkey, some eat chicken, and others even eat duck. However, what seems to vary the most is the type of potato. Between four types of potatoes, Berkshire students chose mashed as their favorite. Because of the many tastes they can have and the creamy texture, it's understandable why mashed potatoes are a Thanksgiving favorite. Since there are so many ways to make mashed potatoes, here is one way to include them in your Thanksgiving dinner:





Ingredients:
3 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into fourths
1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup butter or margarine
2 cloves garlic, crushed
¾ cup milk
2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
½ teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
½ teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary leaves
Salt and pepper to taste

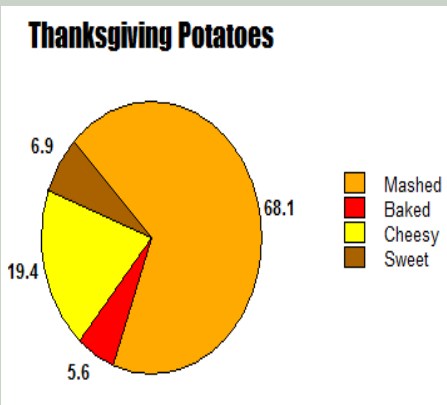
Directions:
1 Place potatoes in 4-quart saucepan; add enough water to cover potatoes.
2. Add 1 teaspoon salt. Heat to boiling; reduce heat.
3. Simmer uncovered 20 to 30 minutes or until tender; drain.
4. Mash with potato masher or electric mixer on low speed.
5. While potatoes are cooking, melt butter in 1-quart saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook garlic in butter 3 to 4 minutes, stirring frequently and being careful not to brown butter, until garlic is very soft.
6. Stir in milk and herbs. Cook until thoroughly heated.
7. Add milk mixture to mashed potatoes; beat until smooth and creamy.
8. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

If you aren't a fan of mashed potatoes, you could also try other meals!



Ingredients:
1/4 pound butter, melted
1 (15 ounce) can whole kernel corn
1 (15 ounce) can creamed corn
1 (8.5 ounce) package cornbread mix
1 ounce sour cream

Directions:
1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a mixing bowl, combine butter, whole corn, cream corn, corn muffin mix and sour cream.
3. Fold all ingredients together, pour into 2 quart casserole dish.
4. Bake for 1 hour.



This poll reveals most of Berkshire's preference on their potatoes.

Conflict in China

by Catherine Lillibridge, BP Staff Writer


Chinese President, Xi Jinping. (Photo courtesy of indiaaware.com)

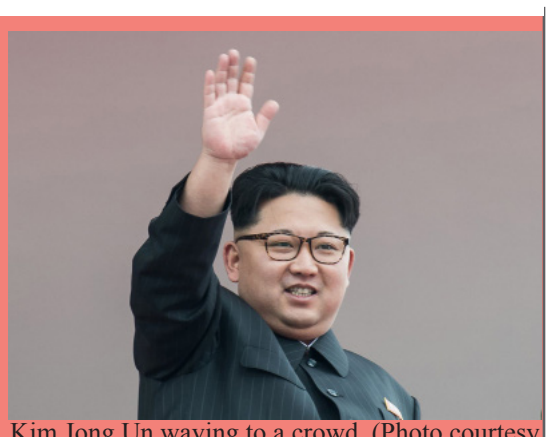
In recent news, there have been rumors surrounding the Communist Party of China, removing current president, Xi Jinping, from power. Xi Jinping has been president of the People's Republic of China since 2012, after the former president, Hu Jintao, was arrested. He is the son of one of the Communist Party's founding fathers, Xi Zhongxun. Despite being sent to the countryside for re-education and hard labor in 1968, Xi embraced the Communist Party and joined it in 1974 at the age of 21. With an increasing popularity in the party, Xi Jinping was selected as president in 2012.

Xi Jinping came to power hoping to enforce Maoism as well as crony capitalism. Maoism is a communistic political theory based on the teachings of former Chinese political leader, Mao Zedong on the base that he led the Cultural Revolution in China and allowed it to become a communist superpower. Crony capitalism is a predominantly free market economy but allows for regulation and government intervention.

After his selection, Xi ushered in a new era of authoritarianism and assertiveness in the country. But the question still stands. Why do high Chinese officials want to remove him from power? The answer is quite simple if you actually think about it; Xi expelled those from the party who he believed were corrupt. Among these expelled and arrested were Bo Xilai, Zhou Yongkang, Ling Jihua, along with a couple others who held high positions in the party. "[Xi] addressed the cases of Bo Xilai, Zhou Yongkang, Ling Jihua, Xu Caihou, Guo Boxiong and Sun Zhengcai. "They had high positions and great power in the party, but they were hugely corrupt and plotted to usurp the party's leadership and seize state power" states the chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission, Liu Shiyu. This statement makes Liu the first Chinese official to speak out against former leaders arranging a coup against Xi Jinping. Since the selection of president in 2012, Liu also claims that Xi Jinping has been taking action towards ridding the country of corruption. Liu also states that "Xi Jinping, with the historical responsibility as a proletarian revolutionist ... cleared up huge risks for the party and the country. The central leadership of the party with general secretary Xi Jinping as the core saved the party, saved the military and saved the country over the past five years ... He saved socialism" (Hindustan Times). According to the South China Morning Post, Zhou is the highest-ranking Chinese official to be convicted of corruption in party history. Critics of Xi believe that his purge of Chinese officials is used as intimidation to secure his power in China. What this means for the future of China is unclear as of now. It is unknown whether or not Xi will run for president again in 2022, but it is not out of the question. If Xi continues to purge officials because of corruption, the world could very well see a totalitarian dictatorship in the country. It is unexplored on what this could mean for the United States and our ties toward the country. It is also unknown on how President Trump will handle the situation but it can be inferred that it will not be taken well.

What you need to know about North Korea

By Stuart Horvath, BP Staff Writer


Kim Jong Un waving to a crowd. (Photo courtesy of cnn.com)

In 1950, 70,000 North Korean soldiers traveled across the 38th parallel and began the attack on the South which started the Korean War. This was the beginning of the conflict between the United States and North Korea.

In North Korea, kindergarteners are taught that America invaded the North and started the issues, but is not true. America joined in with the South to fight the spread of communism, and because the Soviets were supplying soldiers and aerial vehicles to the North. The fact that the soviets were helping spread communism was a major issue. The war lasted three years and ended with a stalemate.

The threat of North Korea has played a role in the United States since then. They tested their first nuclear weapon in the fall of 2006. The test was successful and caused a 4.8 magnitude earthquake. They tested the bomb in Pyongyang North Korea. The most recent test occurred on September 3rd 2017, and North Korea claims the test was a hydrogen bomb. To put this into perspective, the bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima was equal to 20 kilotons of TNT, and the most recent test by North Korea was equal to 100 kilotons of TNT. This began large paranoia of a sudden North Korean nuclear threat. Donald Trump has been handling the North Korean situation particularly well. After the recent tests, Donald Trump stated that North Korea "will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." This shows that Untied States is not afraid to defend. He also said that if North Korea continues the testing, the U.S will have no choice to "totally destroy North Korea." These tests by North Korea affect the whole world and Trump is prepared to defend both the United States and its allies.

Kim Jong Un won't take action because of his passion for his regime. Kim Jong Un loves what he has done with North Korea; he loves the regime he has created, and doesn't want to ruin any of the things that he has created. It would ruin everything if he attacked the U.S or the territory of Guam. **(Continued on insert).**

X out X-mas in October

by Robert O'Conke, BP Staff Writer

While it's too difficult to ignore and too infuriating to forget about, Christmas season starting in early October this year was an unwelcome surprise. Most people would agree that October and November are a spooky and thankful time in contrast to the ever looming consumer season which comes earlier and earlier every year.

"But Robert, (one innocent boy with a crutch and rickets may ask), why do you hate Christmas?" And to that I answer… I don't. I love Christmas: the family, the food, and selfishly… the gifts. But I also love all the holidays during the 11 months between the Christmas' beginning and end every January-November. Each holiday, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving, has its own unique and interesting history and tradition. They offer more than just cavities and food comas; they bring people together in their own respects. Whether you're watching a scary movie with a loved one or gathering around a feast with family and friends, both seasons deserve their rightful time. It doesn't help that more than often all forms of media become slaves to the opportunity to make money.

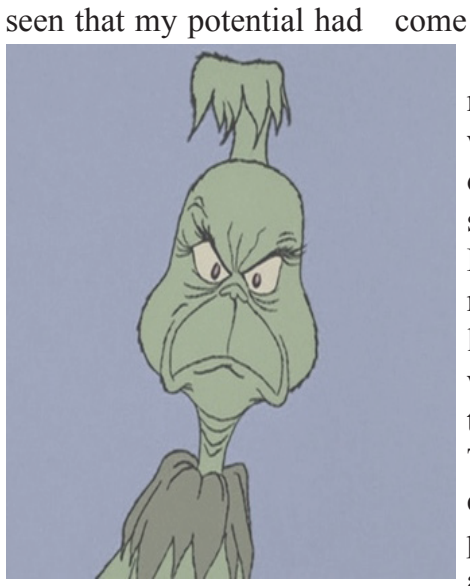


The lengthy season does more than just affect other holidays; it stresses parents as well. Hunter Lynn, English teacher, says that the stress "comes from knowing what [Christmas] should mean and what meaning society gave it. It's stressful to balance the actual meaning and society's meaning with my kids. I often take them to soup kitchens to show them what Christmas really means." But does that mean that companies are to blame for this saturated season? Well, Hunter believes that "we can blame companies and businesses, but we are really the ones to blame for embracing this meaning." Our society is so stuck on the concept of love and appreciation being shown through a receipt we've lost what these words had once truly meant.

Ever since Christmas began infecting other months, the season becomes so long and drawn out that I welcome the end of the three-month period where stress is high and pocket-cash is low. Sophomore Josiah Schindelar comments on his feelings about previous Christmas seasons saying that: "We've begun to treat the season as an excuse to shop rather than the good time it once was." Schindelar also sees the effect of American consumerism on Christmas.

Yet, there are people who enjoy this tragic winter phenomenon. People such as these take the joy they feel during a genuinely wonderful time and push it to a point where it becomes lackluster for those around them. This is understandable, as a lot of people's favorite memories come from this joyous season. Cameron Layne, exceptional senior and capitalist, recalls a memory very dear to him that happened on the sacred 25th of December: "It was a defining moment in my life that gave me a newfound insight of my instructor as more than a teacher, but more so a friend or even a father figure to me. I was around 13 when he wanted me to try out a new banjo he had purchased. To me, the banjo had the most melodious tone and graceful sound that I had ever experienced. He then looked at me and said two words: 'Merry Christmas.' The true joy of the Christmas season had been reserved for this moment where I had learned that he had seen that my potential had grown exponentially." When hearing this, I began to understand people's stigma with increasing Christmas-time.

> "We've begun to treat the season as an excuse to shop rather than the good time it once was."



Junior Spencer Price, when asked about his favorite Christmas memories, passively said, "I really enjoy snow days." Asking for elaboration yielded little results as he answered, "I like to do nothing." On a bit more interesting note, sophomore Peter Brent gets excited for Christmas as "Every Christmas Eve [he goes] to a family get-together at [his] cousin's house, and it's a pretty good time." Families often take the Christmas time to come together.

It's because of memories like these why people hang on so closely to that special time of year. However, those memories become less meaningful when that special time is ALL the time. Through my talks and conversations with people such as Layne and Schindelar, my heart grew three sizes that day… then shrunk another four, becoming a black hole from which Christmas cheer cannot escape.

To kill a mockingbook.

By Elizabeth Ward BP Staff Writer

Picture this: You're reading the novel To Kill a Mockingbird, and you come across the "n" word. What do you do? Do you ignore the word and continue reading? Do you complain and say it's offensive? Some students feel it made them uneasy, so here is what some schools are doing to fix the problem:

Schools in Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia are taking the novel off of their reading list because of its offensive language. Schools that are banning the novel have all stated that they can "teach the same lessons with other books" and that the language in the book "makes kids uncomfortable". Sophia Ward, a freshman who is currently reading To Kill a Mockingbird in CP English I, has some things to say on the matter. "I think it's stupid because the only reason why they're taking the book off their reading list is because people are 'uncomfortable' with the use of some of the language." She explains that when she comes across the offensive language in the novel, she just reads past it, because to her, "it's just a word."

Ward also feels that the book is a good representation of how racism affected the country in the early 1930's. Other students, Emily Lobdell and Tori Vannoy, feel the same way. They also believe that the book can help educate students about racism back in the early 1930's.

Mrs. Kiczek, our freshman English teacher who is currently reading To Kill a Mockingbird with her students, feels that the novel shares a good message with her students. The most important moral that she gains from the novel is the importance of empathy, that we "never really understand a person until [we] consider things from his point of view… until [we] climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." Mrs. Kiczek also feels saddened that schools would remove the novel from their curriculum. She states, "classic literature often unites a broad spectrum of people by enabling them to think about important, though sometimes uncomfortable, ideas."

Other students feel differently though. Bianca Ramos, a freshman who is also reading the novel says that the schools are right to take the book down. She explains that some people might get offended by the language represented in the novel, but she also feels that banning the novel is a bit excessive. "I can see both [sides]. One, it can be offensive towards people, and another thing is that it teaches people about what happened back then."

There are mixed feelings about the situation. Some say that it is good that some schools banned the novel, and others say the novel is necessary to have in education. The novel itself brings knowledge of how racism affected the country in the past, and it's also a really good book in general, but some students feel discomfort while reading the book due to its language. So in the future, let's just hope that Berkshire doesn't try to ban the novel as well.

Harry Styles graduates from 1D

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Editor

Throw all misconceptions to the wind, because Harry Styles is making an image for himself. From 2010 to 2016, One Direction was the hottest thing since the Beatles. Millions of fans around the world worshipped their gorgeous accents and looks. Unfortunately for us, they split up early last year. We had to say goodbye to our twelve-year-old visions of love and hope for the world and graduate to different sounds and styles brought on by each member individually. With Zayn moving to R&B, Louis and Liam moving to pop and rap, and Niall writing folk rock close to his Irish home roots, we are left to question: What happened to Harry?

Harry Styles made his acting debut in July 2017's *Dunkirk*, a film about the great Battle of Dunkirk in World War II. Simultaneously, he created a solo album that truly sets himself apart from his former bandmates. *Rolling Stone* describes him as "a true rock & roll prince, a sunshine superman, a cosmic dancer in touch with his introspective acoustic side as well as his glam flash." Released May 12 this year, *Harry Styles* is a mixture of pop and alternative rock. His self-titled album contains 10 songs meant as a love note to Pink Floyd, the Beatles, and the Rolling Stones. It has an amazing 4.3 stars on iTunes, based off of 4,443 reviews (and counting). According to *Vanity Fair Magazine*, "It's mix of space rock and Fleetwood Mac and Sunset Strip scuzz and Brit-pop nostalgia telegraphs a depth, a considered weight. The album has an undeniable undertow." This is a score for men and women alike, so shed your false impressions about Styles and jump head-first into great music.

We are led into this record gradually, with the soft acoustic guitar and blended folk background of "Meet Me in the Hallway." The 70's vibes given off are reminiscent of The Beatles. The lyrics create a nostalgic feeling discussing the problems people face everyday: "I walked the streets all day/Running with the thieves/'Cause you left me in the hallway/ Give me some more/Just take the pain away." With the soft music in the background and psychedelic echo-y vocals, we start to get a feel for what Harry is truly capable of.

"Sign of the Times" sets the pace for Styles' album by being a hit single for Spring/Summer of 2017. It crashed into *Billboard Music's* #1 spot almost immediately upon release on April 7. Some speculate this is due to the adoration of millions of One Direction fans, yet it truly is an amazing song. A mixture of piano and electric guitar reminds us of the Rolling Stones. Styles sings about the armageddon we as humans will face if we don't make peace with our enemies: "We never learn, we been here before/Why are we always stuck and running from/The bullets?/ The bullets.." That in and of itself is the most important message we should take from this album.

The album starts to pick up speed with "Carolina." This upbeat tune features strong bass guitar and funky vocals to create a whimsical 70's ballad, perfect for late summer nights. It's a true "post-boyband" classic, breaking through from the restrained musical lyrics of One Direction: "She's got a family in Carolina/So far away, but she says I remind her of home/Feeling oh so far from home/She never saw herself as a west coaster/Moved all the way 'cause her grandma told her/ 'Towns, better swim before you drown.'" Senior Aiden Burkley reminisces, "It reminds me of the Drake and Josh theme song!" It's funky and surging with energy to lead us through to the next track.

"Two Ghosts" slows us down yet again. Like Rolling Stone comments, Styles seems true to himself when he talks about personal situations: "[Styles] sounds brassiest, most confident, most himself when he gets vulnerable." This tune is a little on the depressing side, with a "glass half-empty" feeling. He sings about being empty on the inside after splitting with the woman he truly loved: "Same lips red, same eyes blue/ Same white shirt, couple more tattoos/But it's not you and it's not me/Tastes so sweet, looks so real/Sounds like something that I used to feel/But I can't touch what I see." With echo-y electric guitar and soft vocals, Styles really plucks at our heartstrings. If you've been with Styles since his One Direction days, you would know that he and Taylor Swift had a real "swift" relationship. Her classic look is a red lip to bring out her bright blue eyes...seems suspicious to me too.

Styles' second single "Sweet Creature" radiates One Direction vibes. With soft, indie acoustics similar to Vance Joy, it's no wonder this is a fan favorite. Here's what *Amplify*, an online music magazine, has to say about the folky, acoustic single: "Sweet Creature is a... purely acoustic track entirely raw and full of passion. Focused on the smooth and sweet sound of the acoustic guitar, Sweet Creature's melody perfectly accompanies the soothingly strong vocals and genuinely sentimental and reflective lyrics of distant loves and relationships." This love song reminds me a tad of 1D's "I Wanna Write You a Song." Similarly, both songs are meant to be love notes to a significant other. Both tracks make me think that they are intended for the listener, in thanks for the love and dedication put forth.

At the halfway point, Styles completely switches directions to show us his true rock-star self with "Only Angel." The beginning of his album acts as more of a transition from boyband music to raw, uncut "Harry Styles" music. This upbeat tune features a soft, orchestral sound at the beginning, then immediately cuts to a more electrical guitar-based chorus. Here is where it gets a little unsuitable for younger listeners. Intended for 20-somethings, "Only Angel" talks about his guilty pleasure: Bad Girls. Once we reach the bridge, the background starts to take a Nirvana-like turn, with smooth electrical guitar echoing seemingly around the room.

The final tune I will be analyzing is "Woman." Being my personal favorite, this jazzy hit creates a relaxed tempo for the listener to easily groove to. With a serious "Bennie and the Jets" beat, this song is the embodiment of Styles' growth as a solo artist. *Amplify* describes it as, "a real modern funk-rock track that will make your whole body sway unwillingly." If you were to listen to just one song from the tracklist, this would be it.

Styles proves himself to be a successful solo artist with this amazing new release. Graduating from One Direction was the first step. The second was to create a set of songs drenched in his personal touches mixed with classic rock n' roll hits. *Rolling Stone* admits, "Through it all, he manages to steer clear of all the traps that ordinarily sabotage a boyband star's solo move. But as the whole album proves, there's not a thing ordinary about this guy." Harry Styles is the perfect title to this album, simply because it is the physical embodiment of his musical (and fashion) style. After listening to this set, you'll be craving more and more.

Pencil Plunderer

Comic by Aiden Burkley



The truth about untruths

by Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Editor

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a conspiracy theory is, "a theory that explains an event or situation as the result of a secret plan by usually powerful people or groups."

This article will delve into two conspiracy theories, the first being the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 (MH370). MH370 was a scheduled international passenger flight that disappeared on March 8, 2014. It was scheduled to fly from Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia to Beijing Capital International Airport in China. The last voice-contact the aircraft had with air traffic control was at 1:19 a.m., half an hour after take-off. The flight was supposed to last five and a half hours, and the plane had enough fuel for eight hours.

After continuously missing check-in times with air traffic control, a captain of another aircraft tried to contact MH370. Contact was established, but the captain reported only hearing static and mumbling. According to radar, the plane deviated westward from its original path of travel, and flew near Australia. Many believe it ended up running out of gas somewhere around the southern Indian Ocean. Pieces of the aircraft ended up washed up on beaches, but the bulk of the plane has never been found.

This disappearance has been the second deadliest event, with a total loss of 239 people, involving a Boeing 777. The first deadliest being Flight 17, which was also a Malaysian Airlines flight.

The reason all of this is so shady, aside from an entire plane going missing, is because of the inconsistencies that occurred while investigation took place. For example, Malaysia Airlines' chief executive initially said air traffic control was in contact with the aircraft two hours into the flight, when in fact the last contact with air traffic control was less than an hour after take-off. Also, three days after saying that the aircraft was not transporting anything hazardous, Malaysia Airlines' chief executive said that potentially dangerous lithium batteries were on board. The police also had a miscommunication, saying that Malaysian authorities visited the homes of pilot Zaharie and co-pilot Fariq on March 15, during which they took away a flight simulator belonging to Zaharie. Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said this was the first police visit to those homes. However, on March 17, the government contradicted this by saying police first visited the pilots' homes on the day following the flight's disappearance, which had been previously denied.



A malicious red and infamous illuminati triangle that are supposed to inspire fear.

Some theories are relatively normal and make sense, such as a hijacking or system malfunction. Other theories, like the phantom cellphone hypothesis that says that family members of Flight 370 passengers heard ringing (as opposed to a busy/off signal) while calling the passengers' phones after the plane disappeared. This has lead family members to believe their loved ones are still alive, but unable to answer their phones.

"Many people also claim the at the end of 'Strawberry Fields Forever,' Lennon is saying 'I buried Paul.' However, Lennon claimed that the actual lyric was 'cranberry sauce', though many theorists don't believe that."

Another wild theory is that the plane was sucked into a small black hole. A poll posted on CNN showed that 9% of people who voted thought that it was very likely the plane was abducted by aliens. While no one actually knows what happened to Flight 370, we can definitely rule out this crazy theory.

Paul is dead is a conspiracy theory that sparked many more like it. This theory states that Paul McCartney from the Beatles died in 1966 and was replaced with a look-alike. It all started with a rumor in January 1967, saying that McCartney had gotten into a car accident and had died. Then, in mid-September of 1969, a group of college students wrote articles proclaiming that Paul McCartney was dead and that the evidence was in the lyrics and album art of the Beatles.

Evidence included secret messages that could be heard by playing Beatles's songs backwards and art on album covers that allude to the death of their friend. More specifically, the original cover of the Yesterday and Today album featured the Beatles posed amid raw meat and dismembered doll parts, which was supposed to symbolize McCartney's gruesome accident. Many also believe that the album cover for Abbey Road is another clue. The cover is symbolism for a funeral procession, with Lennon seen as a heavenly figure in white. Ringo, in black, is seen as the undertaker, and Harrison, in denim, symbolizes the grave digger. Finally McCartney, barefoot, is the corpse.

The songs also hold clues to his death. When playing a section of "Revolution 9" backwards, the phrase "turn me on, dead man" can be heard. Many people also claim the at the end of "Strawberry Fields Forever," Lennon is saying "I buried Paul." However, Lennon claimed that the actual lyric was "cranberry sauce", though many theorists don't believe that.

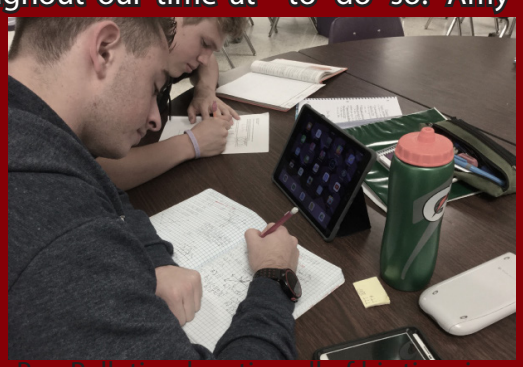
All these clues that point to the death of McCartney are said to have been placed in the music because of the guilt and grief the band felt. Though if Paul really is dead, then his replacement is still at large.

A lesson on learning

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Asst. Editor

We have all been there. You will be sitting at your desk, staring at the inanimate object housing the vital ink that is a unit test. Your palms sweat and perhaps even your hands start to shake. Every movement, every insignificant sound from the clock ticking, to the chatter of another class from down the hall is amplified. If you fail, your grade sinks. If you pass, you manage to stay afloat until the next critical assessment rolls around, to renew the unrewarding cycle that is our school system.

There is little doubt in my mind that every student here at Berkshire has felt the same, or at least a similar anxiety to the one described above, and frankly, who can blame them? From the moment we set foot inside of our first elementary school building, wherever it may have been, we have been told that our potentially bright futures depend on the letters and numbers that we earn throughout our time at school; that our value to society as human beings depends on our ability to memorize material and perform well on tests.


Ben Pelletier devoting all of his time in study

The issue here is that students today, more often than not, feel pressured by our school systems to achieve high GPAs through any means possible, which takes away from their learning experience by encouraging memorization over true learning and understanding of the material, or even better application and analysis of the material, and severely impacts their self-image when they fail to do so. Amy Pfiester, senior member of NHS confirms this, explaining that "it is harder to maintain a strong self-image when my grades are low."

Students are taught to regurgitate facts quickly and accurately, rather than understand why those facts are, and how they impact us as people; all because this is what ensures that the all-important "A" will be present on our report cards; because this is how we are objectively measured as students, and as people.

We have come to accept the presence of the inherently flawed letter grades in our schools because it makes the observation of students easy, because determining the individual growth and effort of students, even within smaller school districts such as Berkshire, is too time consuming and difficult for higher-ups to waste their priceless time on. Regardless, the mental health and stability of students cannot be ignored. We are fed the same general belief every day: the youth of today will shape the world of tomorrow. Still, this begs the question. How can our youth find the time to plan for the future when they must devote all of their effort towards maintaining a 4.0?

The Environment and You . . . . A Satire

Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Veteran

As the days pass by, surely you've noticed how strangely warm you've been feeling. In contrast to previous years, I actually have been able to go outside without my winter coat. However, that was a wonderfully sunny July day and probably the highlight of my year. Or, at least it would've been, if not for the ever-so-negative context surrounding this phenomenon. It's been on the news for quite a while now; perhaps not everyday, but often enough so that everyone should know what it is. Alright, no more subtlety, I'm talking about the big GW, you know, Global Warming!

Climate change has been a big deal ever since the invention of the refrigerator in Ancient Rome so long ago. Coolius Offocles created the original prototype of both the freezer and the fridge in order to keep food from cooking by itself under the hot Roman sun. He also invented ice cream by pure accident when he put milk into his fridge and some sugar cane fell in, though that is a story for another time. Either way, this early fridge was important for a number of reasons.

First, it proved that the Romans really liked wasting food since almost nobody had one. Second, the device was comprised of complex materials such as stone, metal, and a questionable amount of salt produced the first known traces of Chlorofluorocarbons. This was troubling to say the least, but not troubling enough for Coolius not to be sentenced to death before he could do anything about this discovery. His execution was probably due to people referring to him as the "Cooler Caesar", which was not taken well by the acting ruler of Rome, as well as the namesake for Shakespeare's best play, Julius Caesar, who was quoted as saying about Coolius, "That I was constant Coolius should be execut'd, And constant do remain to keep him so". These Chlorofluorocarbons continued to be problematic for the next couple thousand years until they became a really big deal in the 1960s. Refrigerators were hardly popular until then due to the trend of needlessly throwing out food. This was so poor people and pigeons alike could not have it, which was found quite funny until the Poor and Pigeons' Rights movement began. At any rate, fridges were now a staple appliance of every home that did not want to seem discriminatory. However, this released even more Chlorofluorocarbons into the air than ever before.

During the Poor and Pigeons' Rights movement, a tablet inscribed upon by Coolius was also discovered in Italy. It foretold of the horrendous environmental effects that would occur because of the molecules. The world was to warm up due to the increased amount of sunflowers popping up around the globe. Sunflowers, of course, get their name not only from their sunny and friendly appearance, but also from the fact that they will eventually produce enough heat to destroy the entire world. Unnoticeable before due to previously stated reasons, the public now started to realize it was sadly true. Sunflowers were sprouting almost everywhere. After all, the molecules are Chloro-Fleuro-Carbons. Chloro refers to the chloroplasts within the flowers, Fleuro of course refers to the flowers themselves, and carbons indicate life or organic material. And so, many companies came into being in order to invent a new fridge that was more eco friendly, though the sunflower seed industry did everything they could to stop them. However, times were changing, and people were tired of eating sunflower seeds every time they wanted a snack. They just wanted the heat-producing produce to be drastically reduced. And so, an anti-sunflower movement was established, leading to the creation of (Stop the Sunflowers and Save the) Earth Day in the 70s, and coming to an end in the 1990s. The damage was done though, and the evil plants had already penetrated a hole in the earth's protective layer so that they could better communicate with their mothership: The sun itself.

Luckily, humans were smarter than these malicious botanical entities. We finally convinced the sunflower companies that people would continue to buy sunflower seeds and invest in them even after the flower genocide. Fools, they were, but humanity is lucky for this fact. Nobody ate sunflower seeds anymore, and now everyone had a fridge that wasn't trying to kill the planet. Moving forward, the early 2000s were a bit harsh for environmentalists. Rumors spread that Iran had a special kind of bomb that's sole purpose was to bring back the sunflowers by mutating normal flowers into mini versions of them. It was referred to as a WMD, a Weapon of Mass Defloration, and America was determined to never let them use it. So the U.S. declared war against Iran, and long story short, the weapon was never used and their government was toppled. But that's all in the past. Nowadays people are more concerned that the current President of the United States is causing our globe to heat up due to his lack of regulations of the use of sunflowers as power sources in industry. He claims that this is all a Chinese conspiracy: that they made up the sunflower story in order to stop us from using them to their full potential. The Chinese responded to this by saying "什么?" but the message came in an envelope with a sunflower printed on it, so the president wasn't having any of that.

Now, here we are, uncertain whether or not global warming is truly caused by the sunflowers, if China is behind it, or if the president has his facts wrong. We can only hope that the truth will be revealed in the future so that the ultraviolet threat of the sun does not return to us prematurely. Be sure to keep up with the news so that you are prepared for future environmental mayhem. Personally, I get my news from the most trusted and renowned sources on the internet: Clickhole and The Onion.



An artist's interpretation of the sunflower threat.

Burton History Timeline

Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Editor

June 1798- The Umberfield family was the first to arrive in Burton

July 1798- The first house was built at the end of spring street.

December 1798- The first child, Riley Honey, was born in Burton.

1800- A man named Shannon was the first to die in Burton. He drowned while attempting to cross the Cuyahoga River.

1802- J.S. Cleveland opened the first store.

1803- The first log schoolhouse was built.

1806- Burton Academy was built.

1810- The academy burned down.

1812- About 60 Burton men served in the War of 1812.

1819- The second academy was finished.

1823- The first County Fair was held in Burton's Park.

1824- Simeon Rose donated one and a half acres to be used as the first cemetery.

January 1842- The second Academy burned down. The Whiskey Party was the culprit.

1861- 223 Burton men served in the Civil War.

1868- The first high school was built, and the first term of high school was served.

1873- Brick stores were built on East Main Street.

November 1877- Burton was home to the first telephone in Ohio.

September 1884- The second high school was built.

1890- The Opera House opened. Later it became the fire department.

1897- Burton was illuminated with electric light for the first time.

1910- The first water mains were put down in Burton Village.

1913- North Cheshire and Spring became the first paved streets in Burton.

1913- Trafficking laws were enacted in Burton, which included a speed limit of 10 MPH.

1917- 31 Burton men served in World War 1.

1921- Electricity was installed in Burton High School.

1926- The water tower was erected.

1929- A miniature golf course as put up in Burton Park.

1931- The Log Cabin Sugar Camp was built in Burton Park. It was the first municipal maple house in the country.

1936- The last year that the high school was held in the building that is now the Burton Public Library.

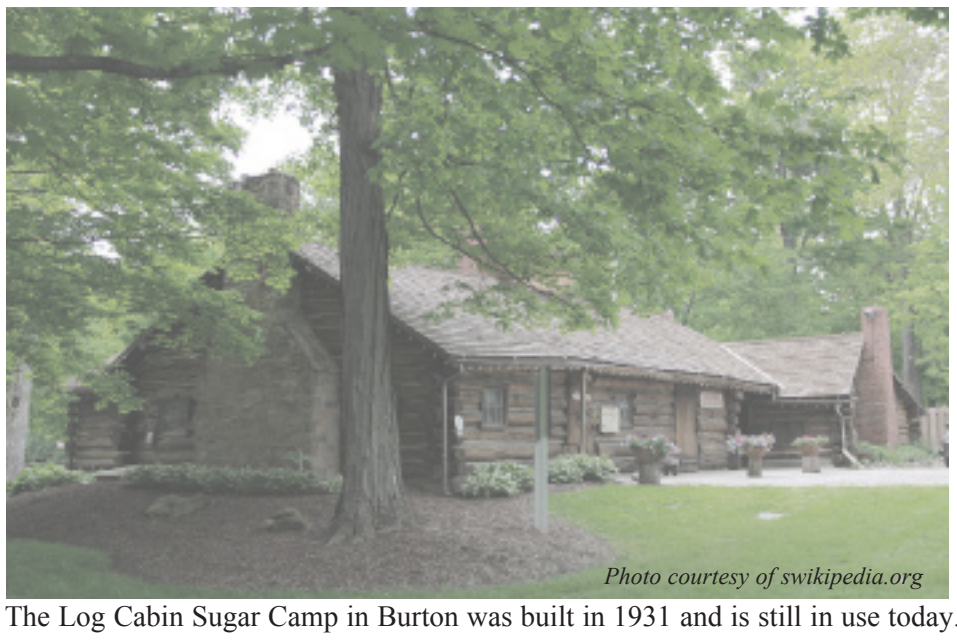
1936- The new high school opened on North Cheshire Street.

1940- 209 Burton men served in World War II.

1948- Burton celebrated its Sesquicentennial and a time capsule was buried.

1959- Burton Elementary was built on Carlton Street.

1970- Belle Kennedy remodeled a restaurant and renamed it Belle's Colonial Restaurant. It is now The Smith Restaurant.



The Log Cabin Sugar Camp in Burton was built in 1931 and is still in use today.