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The Badger Pause

Fall-ing into the 2019-2020 school year



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EXPLORING AREA 51

by Hope Zagar, BP Staff Writer

Who wants to "see them aliens?" As we all know, during the summer, a plan to raid the US Air Force base Area 51 was brewing on Facebook. Millions of eager people, yearning to find the aliens that the US Government is rumored to keep there, responded to the post as either going or interested, launching the event into news all over the internet. Unfortunately, after a month or so of becoming viral, the hype died down as the creator of the event admitted it was a joke. Although storming the secluded military base may not have been the most ingenious idea, it does not mean that people need to stop theorizing about the existence of alien life or extraterrestrial objects here on our planet. Therefore, I thought it would be best if, in light of these events, I remind everyone of a brief history of the base and a very intriguing story about Area 51 that was first exposed 30 years ago.

During the 1950s, people living in the area surrounding Area 51 claimed to have seen UFOs on many, many occasions. Although now it has been uncovered that those sightings were most likely only of spy planes being tested, this nonetheless piqued the interest of the public. No one truly knew what could lay in that barren desert, considering the public was not officially told of the base's existence until 2013 - that is until 1989. Bob Lazar, a man claiming to have worked as a scientist at Area 51, went public in an interview and said to have worked on multiple alien flying mechanisms. He had allegedly encountered antigravity technology, strange elements, and complex propulsion systems in these crafts - things he had never seen before. With time, though, Lazar's story became the target of much suspicion and questioning. To this day, no one can be sure if Lazar was telling the truth or not. Honestly, it could be either. Bob Lazar fell out of the spotlight for decades, until just this past year when he finally did another interview and became the star of his own documentary: Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers. Finally, after just one week of that documentary being released, the "Storm Area 51" event was created.

Whether you are a believer in aliens or a skeptic, I think that we can all agree that there is something more going on in the mysterious Area 51. This time we may only have a music festival to replace raiding the base, but who knows, maybe one day soon more evidence of alien life in that Nevada desert will surface.

IS OUR POOL SAFE?

by Dani Zilka, BP Staff Writer

Why do I have a feeling we are not up to code?

The pool on the third floor has not been cleaned in a mighty long while, in fact, I don't believe it has ever been cleaned properly. For those of you still getting used to the walls of Berkshire High School, this may be news to you, there is a pool on the roof. You're lucky this is a newspaper.

Students may believe the pool's wellbeing does not affect their daily life, however, I would like to assure those students wrong. That leak in the ceiling is not just the crumbly roof falling apart on top of us, but the crack in the pool floor. Also, of course, the smell is chlorine and not the kids that do not reapply deodorant after gym class, or at all to begin with. If guys can complain that a female shoulder distracts them from learning then I think we can say the smell is getting in the way of our studies.

The swim club has not taken the pool's condition well, so bad in fact, that we do not even have a swim club. Without proper facilities for the swim club, the only swimming they can do is sliding on the floor from locker to locker. Our school plans for if there happens to be a fire, but what if there is a flood? The school claims to prepare us for adult life but, what adult can't swim?

Yet another reason why a pool cleansing is needed is to keep the badger bugs away, and no I don't mean the students. Those creepy crawlies you find roaming the halls are actually a type of silverfish, yes, like the Minecraft mob silverfish. My instincts tell me that having a chlorinated pool would keep those pesky bugs away from our brick fort.

I conversed with the janitorial staff here at the high school, and none of the staff does any sort of cleaning of the pool that's definitely on the roof. Needless to say, I am amazed that no one has taken this to concern. After such a long time without proper care, I am fearful of the pool's condition, Lake Erie might be cleaner than our pool folks. Yes, *that* bad.



Courtesy of istockphoto.com

A sad and dpressing pool. No one wants that.

The phoney truth

a farce by Timmy Hein, BP Staff Writer

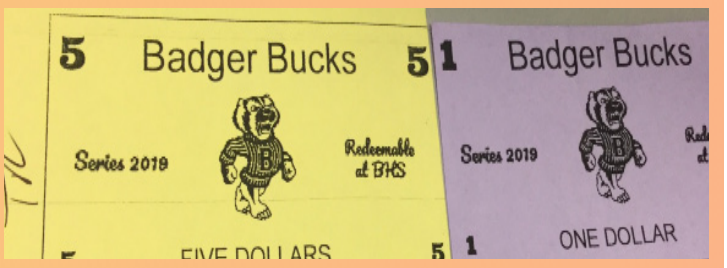
New year, new policies. Here at Berkshire we have two new major ones this year. The brand new P.B.I.S. policy (Positive Behavior Integration and Support). This new policy is designed to encourage positive behavior.

A byproduct of the new policy is the Badger Bucks. This purple and yellow paper currency will be useful for winning certain prizes later on in the year, but what makes them so special? The rarity of them, of course! A special thanks from the teacher as they catch you mindlessly participating in the new PBIS policy with tasks such as completing your homework for the one dollar or covering your book for the five dollar. Not a jest, those are some of the rare, rewarding moments in which you're granted this currency.

Even more exciting, Berkshire has a new phone policy. The student body loves not having their phones, the one thing that distracts them from anything. The phone ban permits the students here to get even more creative at their own deception. This new ingenuity is creating a great relationship in regards to trust between students and teachers, especially when the teachers do not go on their phones in front of the class at all.

The "happy medium" that the new policy instills is one in which an honest community is created where ABSOLUTELY NO subversiveness occurs, even less than with the old partial ban policy.

For the foreseeable future, Berkshire says goodbye to the "out of sight, out of trouble" policy for phones, and rewards the students for having better integrity, drive, and character with Badger Buck currency.



When fellow Journalism student Cassidy Misconin took this impromptu photo, she was gifted a Badger Buck from Ms. Hull for doing so.





PUMPKIN SPICE SEASON... THE END OF VSCO GIRLS

by Cassie Misconin, BP Staff Writer

Now that the season of bragging to all your friends that you got a Starbucks pumpkin spice latte has started, perhaps the season of "sksksksk

Fall Fever

by Jackson Hare, BP Editor

We are only a few weeks into the school year and, already, students have fallen victim to the sicknesses of the fall season including myself. In light of the fall fever, this here is a guide to preventing yourself from becoming a victim of this agonizing sickness, unless of course you have already fallen ill as did I. In that case, this will hopefully help lead you to a quick recovery.

As for prevention, I'm no doctor but I've had my fair share of sickness, therefore my ability to offer advice, although limited, is credible. One thing I know, being that I live in a household of four including myself, if one family member gets sick, the rest are inevitably doomed to fall ill. If you are in that boat, see below to find recovery tips and tricks as they will soon be dire to your ability to function. For those of you who somehow managed to stay healthy after the first line of victims struck ill, then this is for you. To be completely honest, I personally believe that getting sick is inevitable but I'll pretend that I believe there is a chance for you. It's likely you interact with various people throughout your day, and unfortunately some of which are potentially plagued with fall fever, therefore it is crucial you keep your hands nice and clean with hand sanitizer at the ready. If you are really serious about not getting sick, maybe just avoid all human interaction in general and just sit in a bathtub of hand sanitizer while wearing a hazmat suit. That is truly the only solution I have for 100% prevention. P.S. if this strategy fails, I am not liable. Luckily for you, if you manage to catch the fall fever as you likely will, I have plenty of awesome ideas to help you out.

Cough drops,
Tissue box,
Sick days,
Vick's glaze.

That there was just a nice and helpful poem to help remind you of all the helpful ways to endure the sickness that may or may not, but definitely will plague you. Cough drops… oh man what a lifesaver. I mean what is more satisfying than a sweet, cherry cough drop that briefly relieves you of your stuffy nose and difficulty breathing. As for sick days, it can be stressful to miss a day of work or school, but it's important you get rest to give your body the energy to say fall fever… no more. For those of you in school, if you feel like you need a sick day, Thursday is the prime day. Reason being that teachers give you as many days you miss to complete your work. So you don't have to turn in absent work in on Friday, therefore you get the whole weekend!

Unfortunately, my advice is running as dry as my energy is due to my own battle with the fall fever, but I wish all of you luck in this fall season with your inevitable battles against the various illnesses that are associated with fall.

BERKSHIRE FOOTBALL

by John Michalski, BP Staff Writer

The 2019 football season is off to a great start at 5-1. This is the first time in seven years that the Berkshire Badgers football team started off 2-0. The team faced the Harvey Raiders in their week one matchup, beating them 41-0. Friday September 6th, Mr.Hiscox verified that the Badgers broke a single game defensive record with only allowing -4 rushing yards against the Raiders. During the game, the Badgers started off strong and fought until the very end not letting Harvey score any points. The Badgers had a total of 395 yards of total offense in their first game. During the week one matchup, Lexi Boyk became the first female football player to score a point in Berkshire history. In week 2, the Berkshire Badgers took on Fairport in their home opener. The Badgers defeated Fairport 49-36. During the game, the Badgers had a total of 482 yards of total offense in their second game. The Badgers took on Garrettsville in their week three matchup. The Badgers lost 41-14 to the G-Men. In the first three games in the season, the badgers have a total of 1,599 all purpose yards. In the Badger's week four matchup, we took on our rival Cardinal for the Kinsman Cup. The Badgers were successful on capturing the cup and beating the Huskies 47-33. Last Friday, was Berkshire's homecoming game against Grand Valley. They dominated the Mustangs 55-7 in their week five matchup. This week we take on Lutheran West on their field for the week six matchup.



Bekrshire football team at Meet the Badgers

In the past two games, junior Chris Groudle is ranked in the top 50 for receiving yards this season. Ryan Pennypacker has had a total of 483 rushing yards, and hopes he can break 1000 rushing yards by the end of his senior season. Junior Jacob Brown has a total of 387 passing yards and 182 rushing yards in 2 games.This season the team captured the Kinsman Cup and broke a defensive record already and they hope to make a far run into the playoffs.. Come support the Berkshire Badgers football team every Friday at 7pm and the JV team at 10am Saturday mornings.

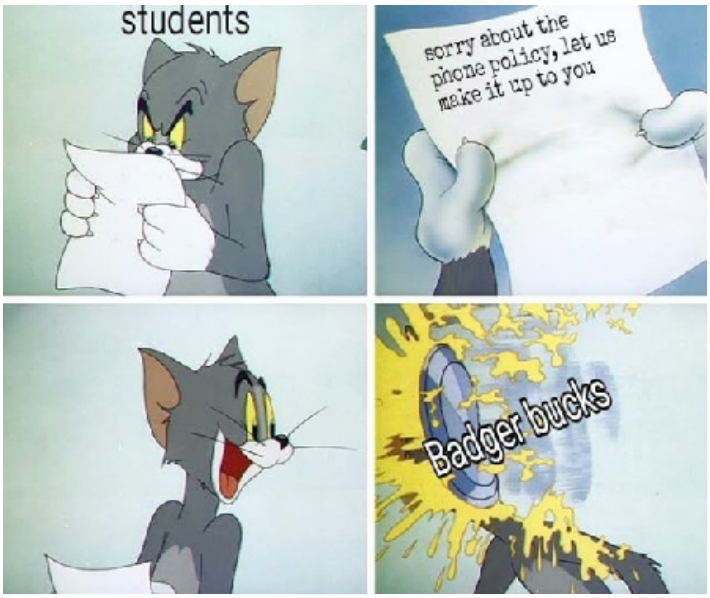
Berkshire, the most memeable school

by Kelsey Adams, BP Staff Writer



You're scrolling through Instagram, perusing the VSCO girls and various celebrities, only to see a new meme page. The username "berkshire.memes_bhs" intrigues you, and with one tap you discover a treasure trove of memes. Who runs this powerhouse of laughter? Is this allowed? Questions are endless. As a naturally nosy person, my questions were quickly answered. As the kids say, I "slid into the DM's" of our mystery account and began my interrogation. While the founder of the page is still unbeknownst to me and the rest of the student body, my intel is bizarre enough to make up for that let down.





Before my article continues, I need to address the elephant in the room. A competition was held, followers were to submit memes and the big man, or woman (its 2019 people), chose one as the winner. This was launched mid-investigation, and I fell captive to the allure of making a Berkshire meme. I, Kelsey Adams, amateur meme extraordinaire, won the competition. Despite my newfound fame, this article will be purely informative and unbiased towards the meme page, its content, and the mystery person behind the virtual curtain.

In true Berkshire fashion, the answers I received were as lawless as the meme page itself. The person behind this has requested to be referred to as "The Meme Master" or just MM for short. The questions I asked are simple and answer the burning curiosities we all hold. First was a question of great importance. "Are you Kevin Murphy?" was met with a sharp "Nope" from MM, and even though my interview took place via text, I could hear the exasperated sigh through the screen. Although not the widely suspected student, I can now confirm that MM has "six loyal accomplices" and a bone to pick with the school, simply because it's a school. Secondly, I wanted to know why would anyone feel the desire to make a meme page for Berkshire. The answer is as rebellious as one could hope, "...to call out the hypocrisy in our school." The most popular of the content pushed out by MM is regarding the schools new controversial phone policy,which is still causing great upset weeks after being implemented. Next on my mind was whether or not the school itself has taken any action towards the removal of the page or some of its content, to which I received, "I have not yet been asked to remove memes, and have not been contacted at all." So as of now, the hub for our growing meme making community remains unscathed by administration and seems to not be going anywhere, or downsizing, anytime soon. As of right now, the chaos, usual events, and culture of Berkshire is going to be memed, and forever encapsulated on the Berkshire meme Instagram page for an indefinite amount of time, hopefully outlasting our years here as students.



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Suicide Awareness

by Kyle Carrington, BP Staff Writer



As you may already know, September is suicide awareness month, and it is crucial to talk about the subject and remember the ones affected by it. Suicide is a very difficult topic to address in present-day society as the number of suicides continues to increase. According to the American Foundation of Suicide Awareness, about 129 Americans take their own lives per day. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 15-34. Additionally, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, the leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24 is suicide, and it is the 10th leading cause overall. Suicide affects everyone, even the people in small towns like Burton, Ohio.

National Suicide Awareness Day was the second Tuesday of September in 2019. However, awareness of this topic should not have to be limited to a single day or month. It is important to constantly be aware and talk about the subject, and there are so many ways to do this. Organizations, such as Into the Light, host walks and other annual events for the awareness of suicide. Other ways to spread awareness include being active in your community, your school, and just talking about suicide and how it affects our loved ones and the people around you. For example, Char Kuchta, who has been affected by the matter directly, is a very active member of our community with suicide awareness and prevention. She uses social media and participates in events hosted by organizations (for example, Life Act and NAMI) to help people be aware of suicide and its effects on society.

4 steps if you suspect someone is suicidal:

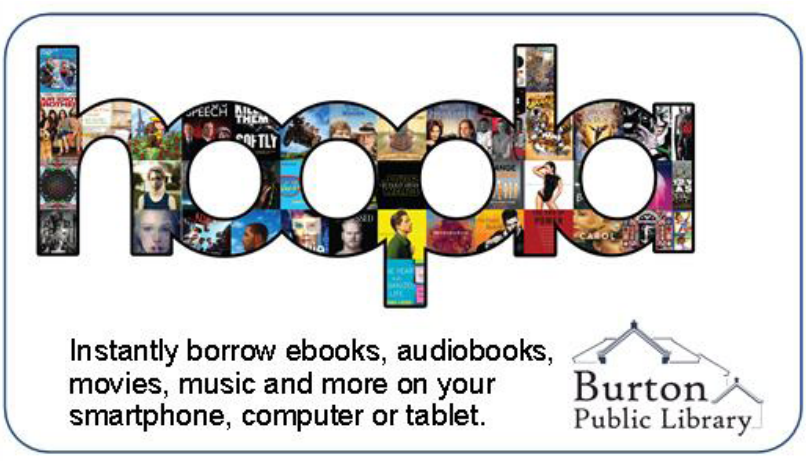
1. Ask questions
2. Look for warning signs
3. Get immediate help
4. Offer support

A part of awareness is prevention. There are various ways to get involved when it comes to suicide prevention. Programs, such as the The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, have been created for the purpose of aiding this matter. Twenty-four-hour hotlines have also been established. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (+1 800-237-8255), is a hotline in which people can call or text if they need help, or know of someone in need of help and need advice on how to handle a situation. Other chat lines include the Trevor LifeLine for LGBTQ+ community (+1-866-488-7386), or texting HOME to 741741 to have a confidential text conversation with a crisis counselor. Trusted adults, such as school counselors or parents are always available if you or someone you know needs help or support. Talking about it and being supportive is essential to prevention.



It is important to stay aware of suicide and to be active in the prevention of suicide. It is predicted that by 2020, someone will take their life every 20 seconds. If you know someone who needs help or support, reach out. If you are not sure how to do so, reach out to guidance counselors, hotlines, and other trusted adults. It's okay to talk about it.

In loving memory of Kyle Kuchta, Cameron Holliday Nyerges, and Christopher Wilson.





Kellerism: An Origin Myth

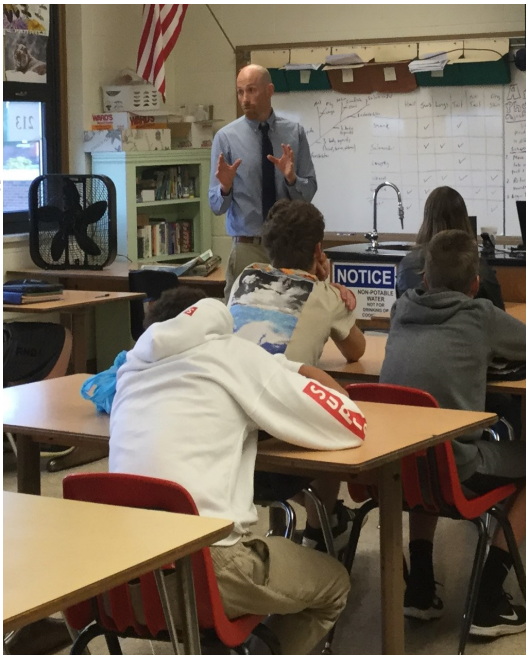
by Ian Martin, BP Staff Writer

At the dawn of time, there were many gods, and over the course of history they have been known by many names. But one, our lord Keller, has been lost. Why has such a powerful deity been forgotten? Well it all began a long time ago…

When the universe was created there were three major gods. Life, Death, and The Physical World. The most powerful of these, Mr. Keller, was the god of life. He kept the living in check through the principals of peace, biology, and communism. He wanted all to be peaceful and equal. The universe was good for nigh on a century, but a storm was brewing. Mr. Keller was banished by the gods and replaced with lesser deities who would later become the Olympians. He was banished to earth and, though still immortal, was stripped of his power.

Alone in a cave, starving, it is rumored that he was saved by a great salamander who remembered him even in his human form. As a human he labored, becoming strong despite his lack of powers. He took on the human name Emmett, and went into hiding in present day Russia. Over the years he spread his morals, gaining popularity amongst the mortals. Before long he had regained aspects of his godly form.

With the birth of Karl Marx, a clay statue animated by the newly redietized Keller, communism was reborn in the world. It is with this rising, that Mr. Keller would become a god again. He kept the muscular form he gained during his banishment and remembered the salamander that had saved him, making it his sacred animal.



Pictured here is Mr. Keller, addressing his numerous followers.

Now Mr. Keller has settled into a human life once again. After the death of Marx, Keller saved his companion's conscience in his computerized form, turning him into a laptop. He and his demigod sons still protect the great salamander's descendants. Mr. Keller still preaches pacifism, biology, and veganism. He has retired from communism since the death of his companion Marx, though he still accepts and often distributes the offerings of rice his followers gift him. Mr. Keller is truly a generous god. He is a teacher here at Berkshire and still spreads his ideals to his students. Mr. Keller loves this life, and is famously quoted, "Good morning everyone, it's good to see your lovely, smiling faces, on this sunny Tuesday morning. Happy Tuesday."



Rice is the sacred plant of Keller.

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