

THE BADGER PAUSE



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Hamstead Horror

By BP Staff Writer Mia Pirichy

For the first time in three long years we have a fall play. The Berkshire Thespians are proud to present 'Dracula.' This horror show is bound to leave you clenching your teeth, or fangs. This talented cast of fifteen features 10 high schoolers and five middle schoolers. We are seeing many returning faces, and only one new to the Berkshire Stage, 7th grader Milo Morgan-Ard, although it is not his first show.

The cast consists of: Senior- Andy Lobdell, juniors-Maxwell Meyers, Mia Pirichy and Void Spanos. sopohmores- Sophia Young, Haiden Welling, Aerowyn Dasic, Lillian Warner, and August Martin. freshman- Brienna Pyles. 8th Graders- Olivia Jackson, Isabel Szoka, and Rebecca Kessinger. And aforementioned 7th Grader- Milo Morgan-Ard. With Director Jes Sherman, Tech Director Sean Eppler, Construction Advisor Phil Sayre, Assistant Director Emily Tessean, and Assistant Tech director Cara Stone in charge of all things crew and tech, the sets and effects are sure to be stunning.

When asked about the show senior Cara Stone stated, "The stage crew team is working hard to make the show look amazing. From sets, to lights and sound, to costumes". The Stage Crew is working hard to make this show run smoothly. With over 30 members, the tech team is the biggest it's been in a long time. In charge of the set and painting crew are senior Dorothy Hernandez, and Junior Ethan Brownfeild. The prop leaders are seniors Cara Stone and Winnie Peters. Sophomore Ben Rhoades is in charge of marketing. In charge backstage are stage managers Cara Stone and Dorothy Hernandez. Freshman Peyton Kitzmiller leads the makeup team. And finally, in charge of the house team is sophomore Aubrey Gentry.

Dracula runs November 18 and 19, so be sure to clear your schedules to come see this amazing production. Playing Dr. Abram Van Helsing is junior Void Spanos. This is their second production at berkshire, and their 10th show over all. When asked to speak about the show, Void told us, "I think this show will have a lot more production value, and is more dramatic than the previous show." From vampiric waltzes to screaming children this horrific action packed production is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. This show is rated PG-13, and has some scary elements, so keep that in mind when deciding to bring young kids. Come support the Thespians this November, and join us in our "little bedlam by the sea."

Classroom Decor

By BP staff writer Haiden Welling

Have you ever looked around the school and noticed how plain everything is? The walls are all white and purple with no decorations, the lockers have nothing on them, and every classroom in the highschool looks the same. It's unimaginative and boring. There's nothing to see, to spark inspiration, or to even keep you awake while you're in the school at 8am. It reminds me of a hospital, built purely for functionality, no opinions, expression, or creativity. School should be a place for all of those things.

Yet some may argue that decorations could also be distracting. Trying to learn while you're surrounded by bright colors and strong opinions could be very difficult. Teachers might have a harder time getting students to focus and students could have less interest in paying attention. Excessive decoration could encourage people to focus on them instead of their lessons. After all, school is made for education.

Kids are most creative at the age of six. That's the year most children start kindergarten, with classrooms full



The cast has a very important conversation on the couch.

of color and pictures. As they grow older the learning spaces get less and less colorful with fewer and fewer decorations. This teaches kids that being creative is for younger ages, to grow out of creativity and become more "mature". It's discouraging artists and telling students that being creative is childish.

According to www.edutopia.org, "Heavily decorated classrooms can bombard students with too much visual information, interfering with their memory and ability to focus, a new study finds." According to this study kids get easily distracted, especially in places of work, with too many colorful things to look at instead. Along with causing distraction they could also cause sensory overload. Sensory overload is when you're getting more input from your five senses than your brain can sort through and process. With many decorations and people around kids, and many noises in classrooms, kids could easily get sensory overload and need to leave the classroom, and lose education because of it.

Whether you're for or against decorations in learning spaces, both have some arguments based on research. Maybe you even think only certain decorations are okay. Maybe you think every wall should be plain and white.

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS



By BP staff editor Void Spanos

This year Tuesday, November 8th is election day. Since it has been two years since the last presidential election, this election is a midterm. Of course, no matter what kind of election it is, it is always important to vote. Being part of a democracy means doing your civic duty and making sure you are represented. If you are eligible to vote, you need to have registered before October 11th. If you missed it, you should register right now so that you'll be ready for the next election! You can find information about how to register and additional election information on the Ohio Board of Elections website.

Some important and well known positions that are up for election include the governor, a U.S. Senate seat, and a congressional representative. The governor is the leader of the whole state. The two candidates running for this position are Mike DeWine, the incumbent and a Republican; and Nan Whaley, a Democrat. Senators and Congressional representatives represent Ohio in Congress. The two candidates running for Senate are Tim Ryan, a former congressional representative and a Democrat; and J.D. Vance, a Republican. The two candidates running for representative are Dave Joyce, the incumbent and a Republican; and Matt Kilboy, a Democrat.

While these officials will certainly have lots of influence in policy making and are probably the ones you will hear talked about a lot on the news, they aren't the only ones that are important. People like state officials, judges, state representatives, county officials, mayors, and town officials can all make a big difference in your community and your life. There are also amendments to the state constitution and tax levies that will be on that ballot. These will also have a considerable impact on you.

Do me a favor, before you cast your vote this November; make sure you do some research on who and what you'll be voting for. It's a good idea to look on the Ohio Board of Elections website for a sample ballot. That way you have plenty of time to do any research and you will know what is being voted on for your specific area. I cannot reiterate enough how important it is to vote. We must make sure the communities we live in are right for us. Remember, every vote counts.



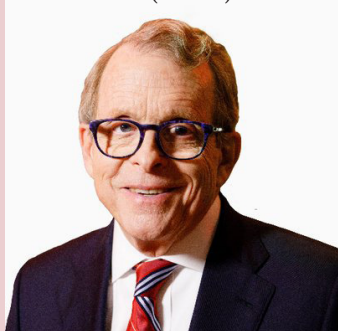
Nan Whaley (Above)
Mike Dewine (Below)



Tim Ryan (Above)
J.D. Vance (Below)



Matt Kilboy (Above)
Dave Joyce (Below)



THE MYTH BEHIND THE BLACK CAT

by Evelyn Milano, BP Staff Writer

As Halloween and spooky season comes around, shelters around the world find themselves with a recurring problem: the adoption of black cats before Halloween and the return of them to the shelter days later. Why is this? You've probably heard the absurd superstition about black cats and how they are "bad luck" or "evil", or how their purpose is highly romanticized for the Halloween aesthetic. Many people misunderstand these cats and shelters urge people to reconsider their belief in this superstition and take care of black cats. So where on earth did this tradition begin?



A vintage postcard showcasing a witch with a black cat.

The myth behind the black cat was deeply rooted in European beliefs and traditions as early as the Medieval period. The Christian church during this time believed that there were witches around them, who loved and worshiped the natural world. These "witches" also had companions around them, including cats (to clean out rodents from their homes). The church believed that these cats; many being black cats, were "familiars" to a witch (meaning a companion for creating evil). This caused black cats to be considered a bad omen and to have evil purposes, even though they were just plain old cats. This myth also carried to the Americas during the movement of the British to the American colonies.

Before the bubonic plague heightened, many black cats were killed off in Europe, along with a great amount of other cats. Because of the lack of cats to kill rodents, the surplus of rats and such among the streets of Europe is believed to be one of the causes of the bubonic plague spreading and killing many. Cats over time have proven to be loyal and loving companions throughout many cultures. In Egyptian culture, black cats were worshiped frequently, and in Japanese culture black cats were considered to bring good fortune instead of bad fortune.

Black cats are just a different color of cat, just like any other animal; there's nothing evil about them. Black cats in several movies have even been proven good companions, such as Binx from *Hocus Pocus*, Jiji from *Kiki's Delivery Service*, and the black cat from *Coraline*. I have even taken care of several black cats in my time, including my own black cat, Juno, and my sister's black cat Pymie. I can tell you personally that black cats are very playful, loving, and are good cuddlers (maybe I'm a little biased), as with all cats. Instead of feeling on edge when a black cat crosses your path, feel grateful you witnessed these amazing creatures and treat them with respect. If you decide to adopt one (I highly recommend!) visit a local shelter like Rescue Village, and meet your new best friend.



Coraline's black cat companion offers her advice about the "other world"

OHIO'S MOST HAUNTED BUILDINGS

by Evelyn Milano, BP Staff Writer

Sitting around a campfire as kids, we've all had our fair share of telling ghost stories and famous legends. But what about the ghost stories that are a little bit closer to home? I researched some of the most haunted buildings in Ohio and collected information on some of the famous ghosts that inhabit these buildings and their stories. I've even visited some of these places, and I will say there is definitely something eerie about them. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, it's still fun to learn about the people who lived in these buildings and their stories.

On that note, let's start with perhaps the most beautiful piece of architecture in Mansfield; The Ohio State Reformatory. Opening in 1896, the reformatory began to house inmates with minor offenses to reform them. The efforts to change these individuals included learning religion and earning an education. However, during its years as a functioning prison, the reformatory began to house more and more dangerous individuals and began to get crowded. The reformatory features six-story high cell blocks, a chapel for prayer, a library, the warden's family quarters, and many more impressive architectural features. Okay, okay, since I made you read all of the "boring" history... let's investigate the famous ghosts.



A view of the cell blocks in Ohio State Reformatory.



Photo courtesy of Ohio Memory

An old photograph of the reformatory around the 1940s.

One inmate committed suicide by lighting himself on fire in his cell, and his cell is reportedly haunted. I visited this inmate's cell in my trip to the reformatory, and it is definitely sad what happened to him. Another incident happened where two inmates went mad after being in the same cell for too long. Those two inmates turned into one inmate, as one was killed by the other and his body hidden behind a bed in their cell. Definitely a gruesome story. Several other incidents of tragic deaths inside the reformatory haunt the building, including guards being killed, people falling off the six story high cell blocks, and one tragic incident of an armed kidnap of the warden's wife and child. Regardless of the reason, over 200 people met their demise in the prison, many of them from disease, rather than violence.

Several rooms of the reformatory are said to inhabit ghosts, and several accounts from workers, tourists, and locals said they had seen and heard several ghostly apparitions. The most commonly accepted haunted room in the prison is a room with no windows, a single light, and a single chair in the center of the room. The ceiling of the room also appears to be caving in slightly in the middle. Many paranormal investigators have said that this room is the most haunted in the whole building and have claimed to collect evidence of such. Nonetheless, Ohio State Reformatory is a beautiful place to look around and appreciate the beautiful castle-like architecture, learn about its history, and maybe even do some ghost hunting of your own.

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The final haunted building I will be introducing to you is the Ridges at Ohio University. Opening in 1874, the Ridges, previously known as The Athens Lunatic Asylum, began to accept patients suffering from various mental illnesses, war veterans, and people with diseases. It's also reported to have housed homeless people within walls. Over time, treatments for patients began to gradually get worse; treatments such as electric shock, and hydrotherapy were carried out on patients. As things started to get crowded, so did burials as many patients passed away due to illness, poor treatment, and other causes. One case that locals and visitors love to talk about and something I have heard of many times from my sister is "*The Stain*".



A photograph of Margaret Schilling.



A postcard of the asylum.

What is "*The Stain*"? What does that even mean? In December of 1978, Margaret Schilling, a patient at the asylum, was reported missing. It wasn't until January 12, 1979, that her body was found on the floor of a locked, abandoned area of the asylum. Her body had begun to decompose due to time as well as the elements, and therefore left a stain on the floor of the area in the clear shape of her body. Many Athens residents will tell you that people sometimes see or hear the ghost of Margaret Schilling in the asylum, now turned into an art museum. The Ohio State Reformatory and the Ridges are just some of Ohio's most historical buildings and have significant value. These historic buildings deserve to be explored, and their histories shared; including the people who inhabited (and may still inhabit the walls) of Ohio State Reformatory and the Ridges.



The stain of Margaret Schilling.

Clubs & Organizations

Now that the first quarter is over and you've settled into the school year, you might be looking for something to get involved in. You could join a sport or community organization, or you could join a school club. But Void, you may be thinking, I don't know which club to join. How will I know when a club meets or what it does? Please help me! Well, since you asked so nicely, I have compiled a list of some basic information about almost all of the clubs in the school. This way you can find the one that's perfect for you!

by Void Spanos
BP Editor



*There is a specific admissions process. Students must be inducted before they can go to any meetings.

Name of the club	Focus/goal	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Advi-sor	Other Information
StuCo (Student Council)	To involve students in planning events for the school.	Room A203	Wednesdays at 6pm, at least once a month.	Ms. Green	Join the google classroom with code: odghark
AC4P (Actively caring for people)	To brighten the days of both students and staff by doing good for others and spreading kindness.	Wherever there's space available	As needed.	Ms. Paulf	Email Ms. Paulf to get involved.
NHS (National Honors Society)*	To promote students who represent the 4 pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character -- it's not just about having a 4.0 - It's about the well rounded student who leads by example, has a service/helping heart, maintains good character at all times, is helpful and kind without needing a reward.	Room A203	Four or so meetings a year right after school. Meetings are required to maintain membership.	Ms. Green	All induction information can be found on the school website. Induction is in February this year, students need to have a GPA of 3.6 or higher and fill out an application.
Spanish NHS*	To recognize highschool achievement in Spanish and Portuguese and promote their study. At our school, this includes doing good for the community and running school events	Room A204	During Advisories when needed.	Sra. Rea	Inductions are done at the end for the year for students in Spanish III or above.
GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance)	To provide a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students and allies.	Room A104	First and third Thursday of the month, 3:00-4:00.	Ms. Riley-Farrow	Staff and recent alumni welcome, student lead, and be respectful.
Just Write 	A writing competition meant "to inspire, praise, and build confidence in teens by assisting them in discovering and developing their own creative voice, through the process of multi-genre written expression and interpretation..." (according to the website).	Room A106	First and third Tuesday of the month, 2:50-3:50.	Ms. Koler	In order to pay for the regional tournament entrance fee, students who wish to compete have to pay the registration fee or find sponsorship(s). Estimated cost per student is around \$50.
Berkshire Carolers	To spread holiday joy through singing.	Choir room	Most Tuesdays 2:50-4:00.	Mr. Eppler	Meetings are not mandatory, attend only as many as you want.