

The Badger Pause

Volume 10, Issue 5

14510 N. Cheshire Street, Burton, Ohio

February 2014

[The following is a completely true account that is totally unbiased and is not exaggerated, falsified, or otherwise misrepresented in any way, shape, or form. Honestly, being absolutely serious here. One hundred percent positively serious. Totally.]

Here's a little fact: every day Hull's room becomes a veritable girls' club during seventh period (Journalism class), with but one, single exception: me. I and I alone stand as the only male on the Badger Pause staff this year: the lone beacon of masculinity in a female controlled newspaper. This likely isn't a surprise to readers, as a certain article on man buns comes to mind (or the very obviously female names of all the other authors). Some may think "oh, it's not so bad" or "dude, you've got it made" (or "why are you writing an article about this, not important", but c'mon, you know you want to keep reading). These statements are incorrect, for what this one poor boy has been subjected to is far more than any mortal man should bear.

Readers might now be thinking "what a drama king" but I assure you, my plight is great. My sanity was likely gone by the fortieth time I heard a discussion about food, which is a surprisingly popular topic of discussion since stereotype dictates that women hardly eat. Oddly enough, for the broken stereotype, there are at least two that have been completely upheld: Hot or Not discussions about male celebrities happen far too much, and the need for chocolate exists to the point that emissaries have been sent out, cash in hand, to search for the



Zak Martinjako (middle), the ladies' man, surrounded by multiple women.

♀ Last man standing ♂

by Zak Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

substance. Oh, and somehow diet sodas are a popular thing (the stuff is purchased almost daily), despite being worse for your health than a normal soda and tasting like liquid disappointment.

Such qualms, however, are merely the surface levels of what I have dubbed "girl time." To start off with my explanation of this, I must say to men that there are some things we don't know about women, and it is better that way. I'm taking one for the team here, at the expense of my poor man brain I can say with 100% certainty that you will be scarred if, like me, you subject yourself to spending about an hour with 10+ women daily. Being accepted as part of that group, "one of their own" may sound sweet, but it's

not, AT ALL. And actually, scratch the part about that being the start of my explanation, it's all just too traumatic, so I'll just let the reader's imaginations go from there.

On top of all that, there is the politics. Let me make one thing clear, I don't agree with everything they say. I keep silent. In a one vs. many situation, it is generally best to stay quiet no matter who the majority against your one is. But in a class of all women, where the politics being discussed are, about 75% of the time, on feminism, and you are the only man, silence is key. Not because everything they say will be right (or wrong) or what you say will always be wrong (or right), but because you value 1) life and 2) friendship. When you're this outnumbered, debate

is not wise. Plus, they always have good points (totally not just putting that in here to save my own hide, for real).

Not necessarily important, but related to the topic of politics, at least half of all article suggestions in our monthly "idea pow-wow" pertain to women's issues. If this is even sort of accurate in representing how severe these issues are, well, I'm sure glad I wasn't born female (I've learned things I didn't even know were problems are, apparently, problems).

Finally, and this is purely conjecture on my part, but I've a suspicion that women are more highly susceptible to stress. I won't specifically say who is who,

but I will say that of our three editors, two of them could aptly be nicknamed "Stressy McStresserson." (You know who you are.) If you've ever had thirty seconds to defuse a bomb that's about to explode is some important place, then you might have some clue what it's like to deal with a person in power under huge amounts of stress (I assume, I've never actually defused a bomb myself). In the interest of my own self preservation, I shan't say any more.

Now, if the (attempted) obviously sarcastic intro didn't tip you off, I'm not being serious, it's not THAT bad (I swear I'm going to lose my mind if anymore food or "hot or not" discussion takes place, though). This was purely an article for amusement, and doesn't accurately represent my personal or political views (aside from said exceptions mentioned above). No offense meant (note: in case of author's mysterious disappearance, assume that offense has been taken regardless).

Now for the shameless advertisement: come on guys, join Journalism, your voice will be lost if you don't!

Ledgemont, page 2.



Photo courtesy of tout.com

Page 6.



Photo courtesy of tout.com

Check out the Winter Sports Seniors on Page 3!

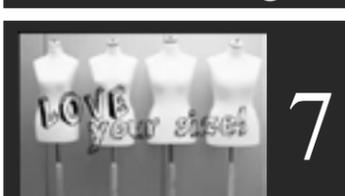


Photo courtesy of stylehasnosize.com

Your music & you. Page 8.



Photo courtesy of tunessence.com

The darkness of love

by Lauren Peterson, BP Staff Writer

The thought of love has been romanticized throughout our entire lives. The human race has built-in the idea that love is nothing but happiness, x's and o's – a fairytale, or a happy ending. The media especially glorifies this "love." Since we were children, the image of love placed in our minds reflected nothing less than joy and selflessness. We associate love with hearts, the color red, roses, chocolates, and more – but it's time to revise this rose-tinted view we have of "love." Researchers have revealed that love may have a dark side; darker than the unsuccessful relationships and heartbreak that we have discovered often comes along with love.

Philosophers have been asking "what is love?" and "why do we love?" since the beginning of time. The concept of love has been explored throughout history. So what is love? It is defined as an intense feeling of deep affection. Synonyms associated with love are tenderness, fondness, warmth, intimacy, etc. But what is love, really? Love is, in essence, just a fabricated idea. Research has concluded that the castigations of biology, philosophy, and psychology are all significant in the creation of the concept of love.

Oxytocin, dubbed the "love hormone," is a powerful neurohypophysial hormone produced in the brain that acts as a neurotransmitter. (Hormones can be thought of as chemical messages.) The love hormone is released through physical contact with another person; when we hug or kiss a loved one, oxytocin levels rise. Oxytocin is not only relating to physical exchanges with a spouse, but the hormone is also strongly stimulated during birth or breastfeeding.

The oxytocin system plays dual roles in the psychology of the human brain, which can be somewhat contradictory at times. Oxytocin may not be the anti-anxiety drug we have always thought it to be: the biochemical has another side to it that it often over-looked. The hormone has regularly been linked with many feel-good emotions such as trust, empathy, and generosity. However, according to Psychology Today, it has recently been discovered that it can also

promote ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and prejudice. The "love drug" has been shown to play an important role in intensifying negative emotional memories and also increasing the feeling of fear and stress. Studies have shown that oxytocin levels were highest in the region of the brain associated with the memories of fear and fear itself. It has also been proven to intensify negative memories of bad social experiences, such as embarrassment, bullying, and exclusion. The chemical not only helps us to remember negative social interactions,

but it intensifies anxiety in future stressful situations. Oxytocin has recently been made notorious for its link to aggression and violence toward others. It has also been revealed that oxytocin is linked to depression, social anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and more.

Should oxytocin be deemed the "love hormone" any further? How are the dark sides and light-hearted, feel-good sides of oxytocin related? Passion – it's all connected through ardor. Oxytocin drives the passion, infatuation, and obsession in one's body, mind, and spirit out into action causing either a positive or negative effect depending on the intensity of the craze. For example, love is driven by positive passion, but fear, aggression, and violence are brought out by

negative passion. For instance, on the darkest side of the hormone, murder is identified as a crime of passion, while love, or the action of love, is obviously provoked by passion as well. Oxytocin is a very complex hormone, and love is a very complex concept. Things are not always as they seem. There is a flip side to every notion – in this case, a dark side.



A united community

by Sam Hargis, BP Staff Writer

Two school districts joining together as one could be an exciting change in the community. The new merger of Ledgemont Schools and Berkshire Schools, grades seven through twelve is the talk around Gauga County. Considering a number of Ledgemont students have already roamed the halls of Berkshire while shadowing. As this year is more than half way over, Berkshire looks into the future, and the new 2015-2016 school year, when the two schools will be joining as one on Berkshire's campus.

Kim Brown, president of the Berkshire Board of Education claims, "as long as the process of a land transfer goes through, we are expecting Ledgemont students to be at Berkshire by the beginning of the school's year 2015-2016." Brown also agrees that the joining schools is a positive thing happening to the Berkshire school system. Steve Reedy, principal of Berkshire Jr./Sr. High school, Doug DeLong, superintendent of the Berkshire School district, and Eric Higgs, president of the Berkshire Education Association were all interviewed about the merger.

Expectations for the new year are all over the place considering something like this has never occurred in the district before. Course selection and availability is a big concern as the new year approaches. Brown states that "with the increase of students coming, we are hoping to add more sections of classes that are attractive to students in our district." Many Berkshire students were distraught by the school taking away the Art IV and the Family and Consumer Sciences this past year, but with the population of students increasing, the school will have the ability to add these courses. This will have a great impact on the student body as a whole. Many can agree with Higgs in the belief that the class sizes will grow and the continuation of electives will be an effect of Ledgemont coming to the district.

Another topic of the discussion has been sports. More and more opportunities will emerge from this transition for students interested in playing sports in future years. Reedy believes the merger will have a positive impact on all of Berkshire's sports teams. Not only does it make it free to play sports without the cost of pay to play, but it will be letting more students participate. The school will also be getting more students to add to the Berkshire sports teams. Both DeLong and Reedy expect this to fill out the sports teams enough to have not only a varsity but a junior varsity as well, and possibly even freshman teams for most sports. The main hope is that more students will become involved with the athletic programs. Reedy claims that although there could be negative effects on the teams at first, in the end it will be a good change because it will create more compe-

tion, make the players better, and put more talent on the teams as each player works hard to play the position of their choice, making Berkshire's teams ready for a tough competition. "If we go in with a positive attitude it'll make it a win/win situation" says Reedy in support of the upcoming event.

Many people in the community and school district seem to be happy yet anxious about the new school changes. Of course there will be problems to work out as the process goes along, but one that sticks out right now is the trouble with staff. Reedy says his main concern is maintaining the staff at Berkshire in the upcoming year. Although the changes with the staff is unknown, there are possibilities of job loss in both districts which would be very upsetting, considering both schools are comfortable with the staff members they have hired. It will be hard to get used to the new staff that was not hired by Berkshire Schools. As Higgs states, many people's concern is how the board will maintain enough staff to offer the courses and keep classes manageable. Higgs also provides a parent's point of view, and says he's excited for his young daughter to receive and meet new classmates in the years to come. The Berkshire community also wonders, will Ledgemont support school funding? DeLong claims that the Ledgemont schools were struggling with funding because the community did not want to support.

The Ledgemont School District seems to be upset by the fact that their high school is going to become part of Berkshire. As DeLong mentions, the Ledgemont school board was distressed and sad when they had to vote for the territory transfer. "The Ledgemont school will stay at its current location on Burrows road open as a kindergarten through 6th grade building for the students who live in Thompson and Montville. Seventh through twelfth students will come to Berkshire Jr./Sr. high school" says DeLong.

Many schools just like Ledgemont and Berkshire are experiencing declining enrollment. DeLong says the situation is different for Ledgemont because they not only owe the state near two million dollars but they'd also need more money to operate for future years. The merger will help the money and funding issues decrease greatly for both schools.

The merger will allow Berkshire Schools enrollment to grow, Ledgemont students in seventh through twelfth to have a school with funding and both schools will be able to work together in order to facilitate a better education and school experience. Brown advises students and families to find out as much information as possible, go to meetings, ask questions or call the Berkshire Board office. For any further information visit www.berkshirelocalschools.org.



The majority of the members of student council are seniors.

Have you been to any Berkshire club meetings lately? If you're an underclassman, probably not. Since the dawn of time (aka their freshman year) the class of 2015 has been dominating the club scene.

Vince Noce speaks out about club attendance, "I see mostly seniors, my friends. I know almost everyone. I have noticed that the numbers for underclassman have been getting smaller and smaller". Why? What is it about this group that drives them? "The class of 2015 is a class with very high academic records, many of whom participate in sports; we are a very active class, except when it comes to going to other teams [games]. There are some of us that make a commitment and attempt to go to as many events as possible. RJ Maxwell leads the pep band at many events" says Vince. When the seniors graduate, who will be there to take over? The underclassmen will not have had the experience of conducting meanings and getting things done. After talking to some juniors, it's clear that they need help taking action.

Junior and senior reminders

by Suzanne Koziol, BP Staff Writer

We're all aware that the second half of the year is always the hardest, so before you get your sunscreen and bathing suits out for spring break, here are some reminders for juniors and seniors in order to stay on top of your game for graduation and college.

Juniors, it's time to start thinking about if and how you want to continue your education beyond high school. If college is where you see yourself in the next few years, then one of the most important things you must do is take the ACT or SAT. These tests allow colleges to have a good sense of your abilities as a student in a way additional to your GPA. The closest ACT dates are April 18th and June 13th and the closest SAT dates are May 2nd and June 6th. It's also important to remember that your grades this year do matter, your transcripts from junior year are what your counselors send out to colleges your senior year.

Seniors, before you can walk across that stage there are a few things to remember. First of all, attendance matters. You are only allowed to miss eighteen days before the privilege of walking at graduation is taken away, and only ten days in order for you to be able to participate in the shadow project. Additionally, you must complete your Senior service project. You

Now seeking underclassmen

by Jessi Simon, BP Staff Writer

The seniors have always had a strong influence on decisions such as homecoming themes and decorations; almost every thing you see going on around the school has been a product of club activities. But with the senior class graduating, the future of Berkshire clubs is in the hands of the younger students.

Clubs like Student Council and Actively Caring For People are always looking for new members and it's easy to join. Just show up to the meetings and you're in! When you're only half listening to the morning announcements, check for an upcoming club meeting, then grab some friends and come join the seniors in their last year with these magnificent clubs. Nine times out of ten, there's food. There's also a chance to see some change! If you haven't been impressed with past events put on by clubs, now is the chance to make your opinion matter! Instead of rocking to the music and complaining about the theme at the next homecoming, join Student Council and suggest a new idea.



Get to know Berkshire's sporty seniors

by Gwen Losasso, BP Staff Writer & Carolyn Mayer, BP Staff Editor



Megan Arnold plays basketball on the Girls Varsity team, and hopes to continue playing basketball and volleyball on intramural teams in college. She is torn between attending Allegheny College, University of Richmond, and Bluffton University, but she plans on majoring in chemistry and hopes to enter the pre-med program. After graduation, Arnold will be going to Europe and she is "excited to have a summer where we don't have summer reading. And I'm excited for packing for college and preparing for a whole new journey." She is, however, going to miss Burton when she leaves. Arnold's favorite athlete is Cavs forward-center Kevin Love, and her favorite food is Melrose apples from Sage's Apples.



(Left to right) Arnold, Carlson, and Johnson have been playing basketball together since 7th grade.

Alexis Johnson is on the Girls Varsity Basketball team. After graduation, Johnson is "excited for a change in scenery and lifestyle at college." She is looking into throwing on the Track Team at John Carroll University next year, although she is not completely certain. She is, however, not ready to grow up (which is a necessary step for a young adult), and she is not looking forward to learning to drive. When it's mealtime, Johnson enjoys eating potatoes, especially in the form of tater tots.

Anna Carlson is a senior on the Girls Varsity Basketball team. She plans to go to a four year college "at some point, somewhere, majoring in something." However, Anna does not plan to play sports in college except for maybe some intramurals. After graduation she is looking forward to starting the next phase of her life. She is dreading saying goodbye to the people who've shaped her life thus far. She says that she has "known these people since we were five, its disorienting knowing that I won't be seeing them every day." Her all-time favorite food is the comforting duo of grilled cheese and tomato soup.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Boys Varsity Basketball



Harden prepares for the varsity game by filling water bottles.

Tim Harden has been a manager of the Boys Basketball Team for two years. He hopes to attend Shawnee State University next year to study game simulation and design. He wants to play basketball and run track while there. After graduation, Harden is excited to start production of his video game called "The Merging World's Chronicle", and he plans on releasing it in July of 2015. Harden is least looking forward to having to say goodbye to his friends at Berkshire and Auburn Career Center. He has no single favorite athlete, but his favorite food is shrimp.



Freeman and his parents walk across the court for Senior Night.

Mitch Freeman plays basketball on the Boys Varsity team. Next year, Freeman hopes to participate in intramural ultimate Frisbee in college, stating "I've always wanted to play ultimate Frisbee." He is excited to leave Burton and start a new chapter in his life. Freeman states that his favorite professional athlete is NBA star Kevin Durant, the forward for the Oklahoma City Thunder, and his favorite food is crab legs.

Swim Team

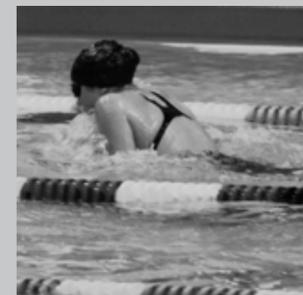


Photo courtesy of the Porter family
Porter swims the breast stroke at a meet.

Becca Porter is the lone senior on Berkshire's two girl swim team. Next year Becca plans to continue her education by going to college to study English. She also looks to continue her swimming career throughout her post-secondary education. After graduation, Becca looks forward to the freedom that she will have, but dreads the stress of college. Her favorite professional athlete is the mighty fine competitive swimmer Ryan Lochte "just because he's Ryan Lochte." Becca's favorite food is delicious oatmeal.

Varsity Cheerleading



(Left to right) Berman, Hadlock, and Garrett pose in their uniforms before their game.

Taylor Garrett is a Varsity Cheerleader. Taylor plans on going to college next year, and possibly cheerleading there. She most looks forward to the Europe trip she is taking over the summer. Although she is least looking forward to not seeing everyone after graduation because "what are the chances I'm going to see everybody again?" Her favorite professional athlete is the star soccer forward Alex Morgan. Taylor's favorite food is cheese pizza, but she also says that "all pizza is good pizza."

Kayla Hadlock is a Varsity Cheerleader. She plans to further her education at a four-year college, but is not sure where exactly. She doesn't plan on playing sports in college, but if she does it will probably be intramural volleyball. After graduation Kayla is looking forward to going to Europe with friends, but is not looking forward to having to pay for college. Kayla loves any kind of pasta, and her favorite athlete is Troy Polamalu who plays for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Finally, perhaps the most important thing you can do this year is file your FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is used to determine students' eligibility for federal student aid. Remind your parents to do their part in filing for FAFSA, as it's extremely important to complete the application as soon as possible.

Alex Berman is a Varsity Cheerleader for the Boys Varsity Basketball team. Next year she plans to attend Kent State-Geauga Campus to pursue a business degree, and she will continue working with her dad. Though she seems to have everything under control, she admits that she is not looking forward to paying for tuition and books. She is, however, excited for the college experience. Her favorite athlete is Olympic Gymnast Jordan Weber who competed in the London Olympic Games in 2012, and Berman's favorite food is mac and cheese with an emphasis on the gluten in the noodles.

YouTube: Broadcast yourself *Cat videos & controversy*

by Kaitlyn Moses, BP Staff Writer



YouTuber Zoe Sugg know to the internet as Zoella.

YouTube has developed exponentially over time. What started as a small site in 2005 has grown into a massive multimillion dollar corporation through which many now earn their livings. Yet not only a job for some, but a form of entertainment.

The first video ever released on the platform was titled "Me at the zoo" and lasted 19 seconds; it depicted Karim (user "jawd") on his trip at the San Diego zoo. This video has over seventeen million views, and over 120K comments. PewDiePie (Felix Kjellberg), a YouTuber who mainly posts videos of himself playing various video games has held the title for most subscribed YouTuber since December of 2013, when his channel surpassed YouTube's own spotlight channel. His most viewed video stands with 62 million views, and was posted over a year ago. The statistics can be pretty alarming; some YouTubers have more subscribers than countries have people. Zoe Sugg (Zoella on YouTube) has more people subscribed to her channel than the total population of Jamaica, Uruguay, and Macedonia combined. If that's not mind boggling, take this on for size: it would take not one nor two Brown's stadiums to hold her subscribers, but 96.

Videos made in bedrooms and offices about anything from how to do makeup like Kim Kardashian to The Tin Can Challenge where people try to guess what the unnamed, canned food is, have pulled people in and kept them searching for more and more. It's these videos that make us laugh or help us learn something new, and it's the effects they have that convince us to subscribe. Read the comments of some famous YouTubers' videos and you'll see multiple like this from user Funnybunny Makeup on Joey Graceffa's channel, "I love you so much your my only inspiration you make me laugh when I'm down And I watch your videos whenever I can". For many, it feels as though YouTube is a very intimate community where vloggers and viewers interact and share thoughts and opinions. It's an emotional outlet for some, and for others, just one video by their favorite YouTuber can make a whole week better. Chase Rowell, a former Berkshire student who has his own channel with almost 3K subscribers, says his "favorite thing about watching YouTubers is getting into their life, seeing what it's like, especially with the vlogs," he also loves, "tutorials because you can teach yourself anything; you don't have to go to a class, you can watch it and learn it at your own pace."

Many start making content on YouTube for fun or because they were bored, like creator Troye Sivan, but others do it to get famous. Rowell said he started posting his videos to YouTube when he was only fifteen, he adds, "I used to make little videos with my friends who I camped with and I had so much fun doing it! I found out about YouTube and I was like 'we've gotta put this stuff on YouTube,'" he must have been doing something right! When first starting, Row-

ell found inspiration in Shane Dawson because he made the type of skit videos Rowell aspired to create. Dawson was also one of the few vlogging at the time. Dawson has been active on his YouTube channel, ShaneDawsonTV, since 2008, and now has 6.3 million subscribers. He was even fired from his job, along with his mother, brother, and six coworkers, at Jenny Craig for filming his coworkers reading a Valerie Bertinelli autobiography at work. That video has since been deleted, but a reuploaded version of it has over one hundred thousand views. This proves that even YouTubers sometimes face repercussions for what they post.

The money made from videos is comparable to what some celebrities make, and it's arguable that YouTubers may be considered celebrities after a certain number of views earned. PewDiePie is rumored to have earned four million dollars in 2013 when he only had nineteen million subscribers, it's only natural to wonder how big that paycheck has grown fifteen million subscribers later. Ad revenue provides a great deal of the money made by creators, and every ad you didn't skip over, or simply couldn't, adds another few dollars to their checks. YouTubers have even taken to making money other ways; many have their own books out, like Girl Online by Zoe Sugg or I Hate My Selfie by Shane Dawson. Tyler Oakley, Grace Helbig, Rhett and Link, as well as many others have podcasts they advertise in. Beauty gurus like Tanya Burr and Michelle Phan even have their own makeup lines. And of course, almost every popular YouTuber has their own merchandise. The "Dan and Phil Shop" owned by YouTubers, Dan Howell and Phil Lester, has a traffic total, reached in December, of fifty-eight thousand visitors to their site and have since gained over 500,000 more subscribers to both their channels.

It's controversy and cat videos that have shaped what YouTube is today and will continue to change how it provides entertainment tomorrow. Lonelygirl15 had the community fooled in June of 2006 when the channel began posting vlogs featuring a girl who shared her life, alluding to cult like activities and dramatic retellings of serious events around her, it was soon clear that the channel was fake when it was outed later that year. The Grumpy Cat video took YouTube by storm in 2012 with over seventeen million views, while a video where a child proclaims that his brother, Charlie, bit his finger has a whopping 810 million views, making it number four on the most viewed video charts. In number one, Psy's catchy tune and dance "Gangnam Style" holds over two billion views. That's fourteen percent of the world's population.

It seems everyone is watching YouTube today with the amount of subscribers each YouTuber has growing with each passing day. Is there an end? Perhaps YouTube is just a fad, a milestone we've stopped at temporarily before it's time to move on to something bigger and more advanced. If it can't keep up, it's sure to die out like MySpace, but thus far, YouTube has kept it's foothold as the leading online video platform. However, it's possible we will come to see a day when typing "you" into the search bar doesn't automatically suggest this massive website.

Paving the way to fame: A look at the past and to the future

by Kayla Hadlock, BP Staff Writer

Over the recent years, the internet has made everyday life easier, from finding information to socializing with friends to taking classes for school; the world wide web has changed our world. One thing that sticks out, though, is how it has helped the music industry and artists trying to build a name for themselves. Before the internet was popular, artists and bands had to work a lot harder than they do now to gain fame. They had to rely on smaller places where they could find gigs and hope to be discovered by an important person in the industry. Basically, they'd have to wait until the music gods decided it was their time to shine. To become famous in another country, however, presented even more difficulties as artists had to get their music there. That means they would have to be discovered in their own nation, make their music, and somehow get their album or record into stores in other places. But now it seems that discovering and being discovered in the music business has become much easier.

Nowadays, it's hard for the present generation to imagine that artists and bands were able to become famous by means other than YouTube and Vine. It's difficult for some



Justin Bieber is one of the many artists who was discovered by YouTube.

people to process the thought that past artists actually worked as hard as they could and did everything and anything possible for fame, even though it wasn't guaranteed. Society has gotten comfortable and are used to watching people rise to fame through the internet from the comfort of their own homes. With YouTube becoming popular in 2005 and Vine in 2013, putting videos out into the public became much easier. If musicians or artists have a camera and a computer, or a phone, they can get their music out to millions of people - and for free. Not only is

this convenient for the artist, but also for the people working in the music industry who are trying to discover new artists. Talent scouts don't have to go out to gigs anymore because they are able to go online and search for people with musical talents. If an artist wants to be discovered, they can simply record a video of themselves singing or playing an instrument, and post it online. Aspiring artists can also promote themselves on social media, going on Twitter or Facebook and asking their friends or followers to check out their video and share it. All it takes is a few people who enjoy a video to show a few others and the beginning of a small fan base has formed. Artist can keep posting videos which their followers share all over social media, allowing scouts to see that they're talented and people like them. If the scout likes them as well, chances are they'll at least get an opportunity to be signed to a label. These artists discovered through the means of the internet should probably be thanking YouTube and social media in their acceptance speeches when they win awards, because it seems now you can rise to fame without rising from your couch.

Heartwrenching flaws of classic love stories

by Emily Shantery, BP Staff Writer

Have you ever fallen in love with a stranger on a cruise ship? Have you ever actually fallen only to have your one true love catch you? Has any man ever tracked you down because he found your



Photo courtesy of slantmagazine.com

Unless you are an A-list actress or a Disney Princess, chances are you've never experienced any of this, and you probably never will. Movies and their romantic love stories have put an unrealistic and unhealthy spin on relationships. Not only are these companionships unrealistic, but they are also portrayed as ideal and healthy which is not always the case. Yes, they are great stories filled with passion, excitement and undeniable love, but in the end that is all they are. Stories. There are many hidden imperfections in romance movies that we don't always see, and it's these flaws that make these stories unrealistic, and the relationships in them unhealthy.

When sitting down to watch your next romance movie, take notice of the almost unavoidable theme in love stories of characters falling in love within days. Think about Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Anna from Frozen who are all victims of this Disney Princess Curse. In Disney

movies, more often than not, the princess usually finds her prince, and within days it is determined that they are "meant to be." Cinderella falls in love with Prince Charming because he found her shoe... like come on. Also, Anna from Frozen wants to marry Hans after spending less than one day together. Shocker.

But this theme goes far beyond Disney movies. It is seen in Twilight when Bella and Edward are intrigued with each other at first sight, and then within two weeks are inseparable. As the saga goes on, they venture off to get married right after high school. Seemingly rushing into a serious, committed relationship much too quickly. Quick infatuation is also seen in Titanic (and trust me, I am not someone to miss out on watching Titanic), in which Rose falls for Jack in about a week, give or take a day or two. Rose and Jack's relationship was unhealthy from the start. They had a very dramatic and short lived love story. Rose was already engaged and after she fell in love with Jack, he sacrificed his life to save her. These movies go to show that love at first sight is an unrealistic and unhealthy way to go about having a relationship.

Continued on page 8

The woes of V-Day

by Clare Lynn, BP Staff Writer

It's time to dedicate an entire month to its one, short lived holiday marked with x's and o's; Valentine's Day. For those with a special someone in mind, you'll be expected to buy tacky dollar store teddy bears or plastic-y tasting chocolates encased in a red velvet heart. Have fun doing the things that we lonelies wish we could partake in, but also I hope something goes slightly wrong for you. Basically I hope that your shoe comes untied and you trip while sharing a romantic kiss or something, (I don't wish something as extreme as you getting hit by a bus.) However, this editorial isn't for couples because you're probably still happily paired with your sweetheart. This is for those of us who are just trying to survive this pink and red dyed happy day.

In preparation for Valentine's Day, here are some necessary dos and don'ts. DO make sure your Netflix account is not about to expire. You'll need to binge watch your way out of this one. DO buy an obscene amount of brownies; I'm talking a bake sale amount to drown that sadness in chocolaty deliciousness. DON'T be discouraged by seeing happy couples in public. Remember that divorce rates are at an all time high and they will probably hate each other eventually. DON'T go on social media Valentines night. Date plans, cute happenings, and mushy gushy selfies will be posted and no one wants to see that junk to begin with.

In an attempt to get into the festivities of Valentine's Day I decided to date around a bit, however, dating inanimate objects is a terrible idea in retrospect. Refrigerator wasn't into holding hands, Fan was too emotionally cold, and Dictionary was too wordy, so on and so forth. I ended up lounging with Couch, who was super comfortable to be around but not much of a talker. Also I cried, as I felt it necessary to do so after an evening of dating possessions but I cheered up when I stumbled upon the realization that Valentine's Day is ridiculous.

Not only is it silly because it's a holiday centered around being especially nice to your significant other (something you should already be doing,) but it's an over commercialized, hallmark holiday designed for consumers to spend lots of money. If you really want to have an amazing Valentine's Day, then cook dinner for your loved one, do sweet things together, you can even make a lovely gift for them but don't just do it on Valentines, be a wonderful partner all the time! And most importantly, do it far far away from us singles because we have some Netflix to watch, and some you to ignore.



Photo courtesy of poemsquotingthings.com

by Melissa Bruan, BP Staff Writer

Ding. Ding. Ding. In one corner of the arena we have the daringly invincible feminists, and in the other we have their opponents: the men's rights activists, or more often referred to as the vexatious meninists. Meninists and feminists are the forces that always seem to be butting heads. The feminists and the meninists, they are fire and ice, the North Pole and the South Pole, and night and day; they can't be any more different.

First and foremost, let's bring to light as to why each of these movements, both feminism and meninism, began. According to several (somewhat biased) online sources, Buzzfeed and Feminist.org, meninism was started to essentially mock and lead an anti-feminist movement, continuing the oppression and degradation of women that has been around for centuries. The meninist movement has taken root and primarily exists online, especially on Twitter, rather than the real world. Meninist twitter accounts, trends, and commentary are fueled by, in my personal opinion, misogynistic males hiding behind screens who feel threatened by the female gender, who believe that women should stay at home taking care of the children, and attack feminism every chance they have. To say the least, meninism shouldn't be considered a movement at all, but rather a retaliation against feminism.

The women's rights movement first helped women gain the right to vote in 1919, and has continued since then to redefine the roles women have in society. It began to diminish the stereotypes woman face in the workplace. The feminist movement continues to challenge, and tries to diminish, the social injustices women face, as well as the problems that affect both men and women caused by binary gender roles. So tell me, which movement is for an actual cause? Which one is using its voice to help better people in today's society?

Most times when feminists try to take a stand, their views are thrown right back in their face by meninists. Take for example the Super Bowl XLIX. Immediately following the halftime show, Always's #LikeAGirl commercial aired. The commercial was meant to empower young girls and women. Right after #LikeAGirl started trending on Twitter, #LikeABoy popped up in the trends as well, most likely because males had to ensure their masculinity was still intact and felt the need redirect the attention and empowering commercial's message on themselves. Men's rights activists and those who tweeted the trend #LikeABoy would be less problematic if they actually worked for a greater purpose: to end gender stereotypes, stigma that follows gender, and other injustices, rather than trying to tear down feminism.

Sadly, because the trend #LikeABoy overshadowed the positivity of

#LikeAGirl, many failed to realize the main message behind the commercial was to end gender stereotypes and that doing something "like a girl" is not and should never be used as an insult. Doing something #LikeABoy is never used as an insult and implies someone being strong and powerful. There's hardly any negative connotation that comes from doing something like a boy, so why try to draw attention to something that doesn't need it? The main purpose of that commercial was to prove the negative connotation that is associated with the phrase when someone says "like a girl," and try to end the negativity for girls all over the world. To me, it seems that men may have just created this movement out of fear. The thought of women actually having the same opportunities as them is quite terrifying. For so long, generation after generation has been taught and have reaped the benefits of the undisputed idea that men are dominant over women.

Still surprising, less than one hundred years ago that women were able to have the right to vote; think about that, less than one hundred years ago. Society decided that, for so long, women were unable to voice their opinions and decide how their country should be run, that it is solely a man's job. But that was only the start. Outstanding milestones for women have been reached since then, slowly but surely over many years, and there are so many changes that are continuing to make a difference for so many women and girls.

Feminism is a movement promoting political, social, and economic equality between women and men. It calls for an end to the derogative and disgusting catcalling, declaring that women should not be harassed by random men walking down the streets, and that they should not be afraid to walk alone. Feminism arms to give women a voice to have control over their own bodies; for example teaching boys not to rape rather than teaching girls not to be raped. It works to make all females feel safe and to create EQUALITY among both genders in all aspects of society.

Feminists also work to end the wage gap between males and females. In 2013, among full-time, year-round workers, white women were paid 78 percent of what white men were paid. Does that seem right to you, that women do the same exact job a man does, but gets paid 78 percent of what the guy does?

For most, meninism is mainly a gigantic joke, although its motives shouldn't be taken lightly. Feminism is a movement with firm grounds that stands alongside many influential movements, while meninism can barely be called a movement at all. Meninism is hiding behind the screens, lurking on the Internet, being fueled by ignorant individuals who bash everything feminism represents.

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Photo courtesy of pixgood.com

Feminists rally together in response to meninist statements.

There's strong. And then there's Army strong.

by Anna Carlson, BP Staff Editor

they even come close to the reality of the battlefield?

Higgs remarked "I think to a certain extent the movies portray the glamour of war, the glamour of being in the military, but they don't show the sacrifice made by people to get to that point, or the damaging effects of the battle, and I'm talking about non-physical things that ensue."

In all honesty, the main focus of the majority of Hollywood productions is the physicality of war. Emphasis is placed on the weaponry, the fire-fights, and the hand to hand combat active duty soldiers find themselves surrounded by. Very little attention is given to the psychological wounds left by combat.

Higgs noted that "Yes there are fire-fights and there are physical sacrifices that people make but I think war is equally as tough on the emotions, in fact even maybe more so than the physical scars that men and women take out of the battles." However he concedes that it is more difficult to convey emotions on the big screen which is perhaps why so many films focus only on the physical attributes of battle. Yet, Higgs also mentioned that "I think that when people see war movies in general they want to see action packed battle scenes."

Face the Facts America, a project of the George Washington College, reports that "one in five veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has been diagnosed with PTSD" (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and nearly twenty percent of American suicides are committed by soldiers. These statistics make it evident that warfare is rife with traumatizing and damaging experiences that don't always result in physical injury or death but rather leave scars on the minds of the combatants. This mental anguish is rarely touched upon

in the entertainment industry. Soldiers are rarely cast in roles that reveal their mental wounds and very little attention is given to this category of injury, instead the physical trauma of war is brought to the forefront. Images of explosions, fire-fights, and bloody wounds are where movies can earn an "R" rating for the display of excessive gore and mind-numbing violence. But is this the actuality of war? Is warfare truly "R" rated?

One argument is that it has to be. Warfare is literally the act of taking a weapon and hunting down, with the intent of exterminating, another human being who is in turn doing the same to you. War is a deadly game of hide and seek in which the victor lives to see another day and the vanquished suffers death. It is a situation full of primal instincts, blood, desperation, pain, and terror. War is a place where fear and paranoia breed to give birth to a litter comprised of terror, confusion, and disorientation. However, war is not constant action, but is rather a waiting game. It is this constant strain, this uncertainty that can cause some of the most severe damage to the human psyche.

The constancy of death and pain harms the human mind. It changes the perspectives of the individuals who must endure the mounting stress day in and day out. How can one not change when one is forced to kill or be killed? War is an experience that draws out the primal sides of humans, reduces us to our simple, necessary instincts and leads us down a haunting path towards

the darkness within ourselves.

And yet there is another, different perspective concerning warfare.

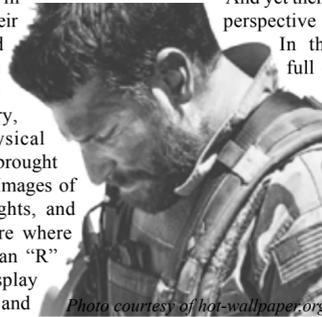
In this instance war is full of strength, bravery, endurance, loyalty, brotherhood, and sacrifice, an experience that bonds together strangers, that takes men and makes them brothers. Under extreme circumstances humankind can survive, build bonds, and even thrive.

Combat experiences force one to come face to face with humanity not only at its strongest, but at its weakest as well; it creates a connection that unites people from diverse backgrounds. War offers a chance to choose mercy.

"On the news they're going to show you clips of a battle and give you numbers of life lost or injured people, but what you don't see are the heroics of the battle. You don't see that one guy risking his life to save another, the brotherhood they have in the military," presented Higgs.

The loyalty of a soldier to his fellow combatants and to his country is an admirable quality often exemplified in the entertainment industry. Movies and documentaries work to bring the feelings of such bonds to viewers across the nation. Producers attempt to recreate the strength of the relationships forged when individuals find themselves in such dire circumstances. It is this sense of brotherhood and loyalty, this sense of trust, that permeates much of the war media. Warfare allows for the development of such a character, it brings to light the strength and bravery of mankind.

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Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle in American Sniper.

Psychology of Survivalists

By Erin Wiggins, BP Staff Writer

I sit there dry mouthed and shocked. Night is falling and the cold is starting to set in, along with my hunger. Is this really the end...of the fourth season of Doomsday Preppers? I get up from my cocoon of blankets and survey the aftermath of my escapade, trying to convince myself it was just research for this article. As I prepare myself a steaming cup of hot chocolate in the comfort of my home, I contemplate what makes a person prepare for the end of the world, even though we don't know what that end will be.



A look inside a survivalist's bomb shelter

For those of you unfamiliar with the National Geographic show, Doomsday Preppers delves into the lives of several Americans who take disaster preparedness to the next level. These people, known as "preppers," invest in underground bunkers, heavy-duty weapons, and enough rice and beans to last a lifetime. They each have their own versions of what will happen when the world ends including disease breakout, nuclear warfare, a weather strike of biblical proportion; the list goes on and on. If the world does end these people aren't going down without a fight, which I guess is better than I could ever do. As soon as the wifi goes out, I'll be pretty much useless.

Over the last few years, the idea of an impending apocalypse or doomsday has become a popular and influential part of today's culture. Several television

shows, movie franchises, and even government proposals have stemmed from this apocalyptic movement. But why have people become so fixated on this idea of disaster? Why has this become such a prevalent issue in today's society?

Many psychologists have a theory: compensation. Over the past decade America experienced a massive recession leaving many people feeling unprepared. According to dictionary.com, the psychological definition of compensation is "a mechanism by which an individual attempts to make up for some real or imagined deficiency of personality or behavior by developing or stressing another aspect of the personality or by substituting a different form of behavior." Psychologists believe these disaster-preparedness-extremists are compensating for not being prepared for the recent economic disaster, by now preparing for something even worse.

Being afraid of the end of the world is like being afraid of the dark: it is just the fear of the unknown being translated onto the surface. So next time you're binge-watching Doomsday Preppers, try to look past the stacks of dehydrated fruits and emergency blankets and remember the people behind it all are probably afraid of something out of their reach, just like most of us.

Clare's Comic Corner

By Clare Lynn, BP Staff Writer



The truths about organ trafficking cut open

by Alex Sanda, BP Staff Writer

Kidneys, livers, bones, collagen, ligaments, hearts, and tissue account for the billion dollar industry involved in organ transplants and other surgeries, including cosmetic. Of these procedures, most legal operations take place in the United States, but there are plenty of illegal surgeries that occur daily in impoverished nations such as the Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Israel, India, and Brazil, according to National Public Radio. Parts of the body can either be taken from cadavers or live donors, both resulting in financial gain in the case of trafficking. Many people may think organ trafficking (and the idea of waking up in a shady

hotel bathtub with a scar along the side of your body) is an urban legend, but that is far from reality.

More than 26 million people in the U.S. alone are reported by the CDC to suffer from kidney failure. They experience waste buildup in the body, high blood pressure, and a lower number of red blood cells. Those with kidney disease don't have many options, and the few they are presented with are unappealing: start on a hemodialysis regimen (hemodialysis, also called dialysis, is a blood treatment in which the patient injects a needle into his vein and allows his blood to flow through a special filter; the patient must be on a strict schedule, having multiple sessions a week although the federal government will only pay for three), hope that their place on the waiting list will go up, and/or endure a shortened and difficult life. For the rich and affluent, the risk of being arrested for an illegal transplant is one they are more than willing to take.

The future organ recipient will usually search online for a middleman advertising the "donation" of a kidney. This is his or her contact to the donor, usually a man who is desperate for money and exploited for financial gain. Although the recipient

will pay thousands of dollars for the entire operation, the donor will be lucky to receive a few hundred dollars. He will be even luckier if he leaves the surgery with his life and no breeding infection. Often these donors live in poverty with shacks or less for houses, little to no food, and a large family to support. For many, it seems like selling a kidney illegally is the only way to improve their lives.

However, the money only lasts so long, never longer than a few years, and soon they are back to the impecunious lifestyle they were born into. Organ trafficking is a trade that allows penniless people in underdeveloped countries to be capitalized upon because of their desperation. It is a vast issue all over the world, yet many remain uneducated of it.

The majority of the public doesn't know about the exploitation of the deceased. People licensed in the selling of organs and tissue from cadavers can sometimes make a profit illegally. These people, commonly called "ghouls," create fake documents to be able to sell body parts from corpses that would not normally pass the requirements for donation that are listed on the UC Davis Health System website. For example, Michael Mastro-marino, an infamous ghoul in the U.S.,

stole tissue from people that had serious health issues such as Cancer and AIDS. Corpses with any harmful diseases or histories of physical or psychological illnesses while alive aren't even considered for contribution. Albeit this does not affect the cadaver's sentiment in its current state, but loved ones of the deceased feel emotionally crippled after they hear of the theft, which ultimately takes parts of another person's body without consent. The term 'Rest in peace' doesn't seem to mean much these days to some in the industry.

In a world where burnings, organ failure, and cancers are epidemics, people are desperate for hope. What it comes down to is this: there are more victims in need of donations than there are people willing to donate. There will always be industries that try to benefit from others' misfortune and until the public is educated about these types of issues, that won't change. You can learn more information about the trafficking of body parts by visiting websites such as HowStuffWorks.com, npr.org, cbsnews.com, and other health/news websites, or simply by asking any knowledgeable people in your life.



These men are showing off their scars, gained when they sold their kidneys.

Every body is beautiful

By Abby Carlson, BP Staff Writer

"Ewww, she's way too skinny. Her bones are visible, it's gross." How many times a day do you hear, or possibly say this? Probably too many. As women, we have brought the commonly known term "sexy" back into society; the Marilyn Monroe figure, or more recent, the Kim K build. And that's great, but should we really start ragging on women with slender bodies?

We worked hard to help people understand that women with "curves" are just as beautiful as women without them... but have we taken it to a whole new level? Now, instead of arguing that they are equally gorgeous, we are persistent that skinny women look like "10 year old boys", and that "real-women" are those with curves and nice thighs. News flash, skinny women aren't imaginary! They are real, flesh and bone people. Saying things like, "girls without curves are like jeans without pockets, you never know where to put your hands" is extremely insulting and self degrading. Yes, anorexia and bulimia, along with other eating disorders are tragic, and should be brought to people's attention and ended, but some girls can't help that they're

skinny. When interviewing an anonymous Berkshire student, she mentions that many people: "... would say things like you should eat more and you're so skinny it's gross". To which she would reply, "I'm not trying to be like this I'm just built this way." More ladies than just this student are born thin, and



Photo courtesy of awakeyourbeauty.wordpress.com

if they aren't, there is such a thing as fit/slim, which is healthy. Quit picking out the flaws in others, and accept that all women of different shapes and sizes

are beautiful.

I'm sure most of you have seen images of the "Love your body campaign" hosted by Victoria Secret, and the "Healthy is the new skinny, Love campaign" presented by dove. In the Victoria Secret campaign, only thin models are represented, and the complete opposite for Dove, which only has curvy women featured. Why isn't there a campaign hosting ALL women, those who are skinny, and those who have curves? Because our society has such a narrow mind of what is accepted as beautiful, only a certain body shape is considered sexy or appealing.

So stop pointing fingers, and insulting girls who have different body shapes than you, it's not a competition. Be happy with who you are, and don't worry if the girl sitting next to you in math class is two sizes smaller than you, or has a bigger cup size. If you have those drool worthy curves, embrace it, and if you're tall, skinny, and beach body ready, flaunt it! Girls are born into various shapes and sizes, and no one should be hated for something they can't change. This is not a competition, and this is not a war, so stop treating it as though it were.

Army continued from page 6

Higgs explained that "Documentaries, or at least the ones that I have watched, and I'm specifically talking about documentaries that deal with terrorism, get much closer to the emotional level than the physicality of war. I think you see a combination of both things." One such documentary he recommends is Restrepo, however be aware that it is rated "R" for foul language.

To understand the true depth of war, we have to explore deeper than Hollywood blockbusters will take us. War is a complicated concept that

touches every life in some way. It is a force that must be reckoned with, whose gravity must be recognized. It cannot be summed up by a feature length production nor completely understood by those who have not experienced it firsthand.

"We have to care enough about our soldiers to figure out why we are asking them to sacrifice for us," stated Higgs, concluding with a question, "How can you have an opinion on war if you don't know why you are fighting?" Go find out.

Feminist continued from page 5

A feminist does not have to be a power-crazed woman. Not every women's rights activists burns all of her bras and refuses to ever shave again. And most importantly, the feminism movement is not controlled by women who want to dominate and completely get rid of all males. Many more people, men and women alike, of all ages, and little boys are joining the feminist movement. It proves to make a better future for little girls so as they grow older, girls do

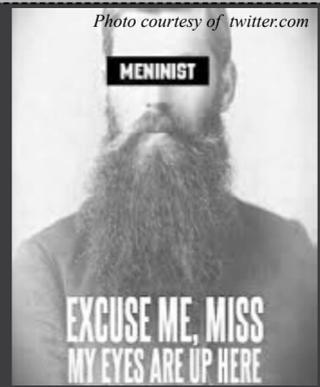


Photo courtesy of twitter.com

#Meninist t-shirt to give many girls a heads up to stay away!

not have to fight to have the same opportunities as men, to ensure that they are never objectified by men, and to believe that they can do anything they set their minds to. Likewise, feminism is egalitarian and works so that boys will grow and be free of masculine stereotypes.

But hey, if none of this is convincing enough, and you still despise feminism and consider yourself a meninist, you can always buy



What your music taste says about you

by Carolyn Mayer, BP Staff Editor



Indie Rock

Indie Rockers are an interesting breed that's easily identified by their unique outfits which they never wear twice unless it includes a really cool leather jacket. They are super laid back and are constantly talking about a new and obscure band they just discovered on Spotify last night. Indie Rockers love everything green, and will always share their really deep insights on life. You will always be able to find them in their natural habitat: sitting in a coffee shop for hours looking like they're writing the next New York Times Bestseller on their MacBook Pro while drinking tea.

Classic Rock

Classic Rockers are a rare and beautiful breed. They are self-confident and are often found singing along to the radio at the top of their lungs especially when no one else is in the car. If you're wondering what kind of music falls under the category of Classic Rock, just think of Guitar Hero's song selections along with the tunes your dad comes home singing, and that's about it. Classic Rockers find themselves listening to a song from 35 years ago, and then wondering if any of the members of the band are still alive.

Country

People who listen to Country music are in abundance in this area, so keep your eye out. Their wardrobe staples include blue jeans, camo, and cowboy boots, and, in fact, that is all they wear. Ever. They are often found in, on, around, or under pickup trucks, but their most admirable quality is that they are very loyal. If you want to become their friend, just buy them some camouflage seat covers for their truck and you're in.

Pop

Those who listen to pop music on the radio are very friendly and outgoing. They are easily spotted by their brightly colored Hollister tops that match their nail polish, Aeropostale skinny jeans, and the Pumpkin Spice Lattes in their hands. You can find them in a large group of their friends as they always travel in herds. Don't worry if you spot one because they are extremely friendly and make an excellent member on a group text.

Classical

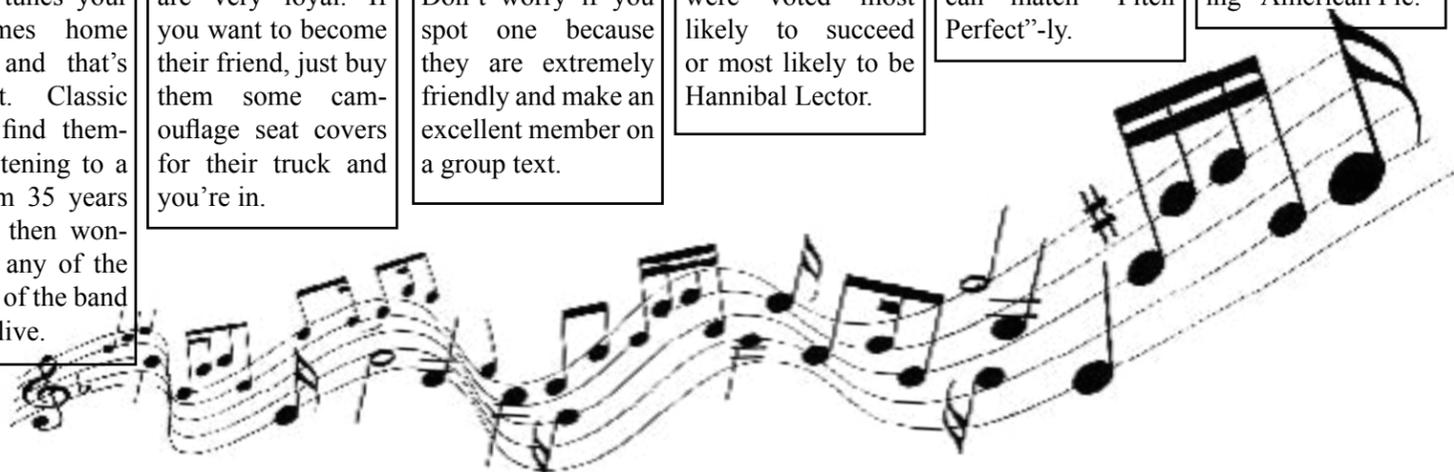
People who listen to Classical music are hard to find these days because they only come out during Jeopardy. They are a proper breed whose members are most likely 75 years old. You can find them playing chess in the park sporting some really nice ascots. Teenagers who listened to classical music in high school were voted most likely to succeed or most likely to be Hannibal Lector.

A Capella

A Capella fans are incredibly theatrical and sing all the time. Their skills include being able to recite every word to every Broadway musical since 1960, and in their free time, they like to make mash-ups. They spend much of the day dreaming about attending East High from High School Musical, and they can match "Pitch Perfect"-ly.

Folk

Folkies are a romantic breed since the music they listen to is beautiful and calm. They can be identified by their floral-printed clothes and large jewelry. Folkies know at least three chords on their super-cool acoustic guitars and are most likely to be that guy with a guitar on their college campus always singing "American Pie."



Sticks and stones may break my bones... but words can also hurt me

by Lexi Sell, BP Staff Writer

Today many people use the term "gay" to reference something as being weird or stupid, but in reality this term refers to homosexuality. The expression 'gay' dates back to as early as 1637, when it most commonly meant lighthearted or carefree. So the question is, how did gay become a derogatory comment? Nowadays, the definition is used to describe something stupid or unfortunate, clearly originating from homophobia. The dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people, homophobia, is not only directed toward gays but the possibility of being perceived as a member of the LG-BTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,

Transgender and Questioning) community as well.

Using the word gay can be extremely hurtful. For those who actually identify as gay, this verbal abuse can be harmful to their mental health. Using such words not only affects those who carry this identity, but it can affect others who feel strongly about equality, no matter their sexual orientation or gender preference.

Imagine if every day somebody you didn't even know ostracized you, simply based on your demeanor or clothing choice. This does not mean that all gays act a certain way or dress a certain way, it simply means they do not feel de-

finied by their orientation. LG-BTQ youth deal with bullying in the form of harassment, violence, and attacks. Mental Health America conducted a study, finding that students experience verbal abuse in the form of name-calling like "homo," "fag," or "sissy" more than two dozen times per day, which is essentially one derogatory comment every fifteen minutes. This statistic does not only take place in schools, but in grocery stores and even in their own personal homes. Don't be an addition to this number.

Equality and acceptance can begin in something as simple as our day to day lan-



Photo courtesy of theguardian.com

The love between two people should never be used as an insult.

guage. Many students don't realize the harm they cause when making comments. So, the next time you go to the movies and dislike the show, instead of saying "that movie was gay" try to reselect your words. If you're unable to define the line between homosexuality and stupid, then I hope you have now been enlight-

ened. Saying gay should never have to be justified as "oh, I didn't mean it that way I just meant it was stupid; that's all." Violent words should never be used so plainly and naturally, think about the things you say before you say them.

Heartwrenching continued from page 5



Photo courtesy of usmagazine.com

In reality, if you were to fall in love with somebody and enter into a fully committed relationship within days of meeting them, I would think that you are a little bit crazy as falling in love with someone within hours or days is not necessarily the wisest. Your friends and family would probably be insanely worried about you. Not to mention, chances are that relationships like these would end exactly how they started: passionately and quickly.

Another recurring hidden flaw in love stories is that the characters go through major changes as individuals for their new found relationships. Grease for example, which is one of the greatest movies ever, possesses this archetype. At the end of the movie, good girl Sandy Olsen changes herself into a completely different person for the handsome bad boy Danny Zuko. Another film fave where this is seen is The Notebook. Ah, The Notebook. I don't know of a single girl who hasn't seen this movie, and it may be considered to be one of the best love stories ever written. With that said, think about the changes Ally

went through that summer. In the beginning she was the perfect, well brought up lady with a very busy schedule, on the path to success. When she met Noah, however, she rebelled and went into her new relationship with him wholeheartedly. Of course there's nothing wrong with having some fun, especially on a summer vacation, but I think that the love story overshadows the goals and plans Ally gave up to be with Noah.

Changing yourself during the course of a new relationship is perfectly okay, as long as it for the better. If you were to go through negative changes that may push your friends away and/or jeopardize your own future, then perhaps it has gone too far.

Now I'm not saying that these aren't good stories. These are all great movies, and I would spend hours of my time to watch them any day. While watching these movies and others like them, just remember that they do have these problematic themes in them, and that in real life having these flaws in your own relationships may not be healthy or proactive, and they may not be good for you as an individual.